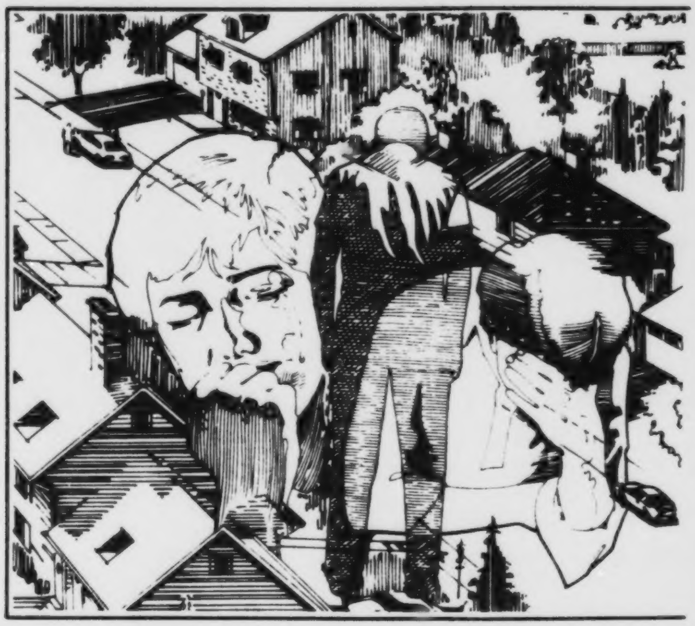
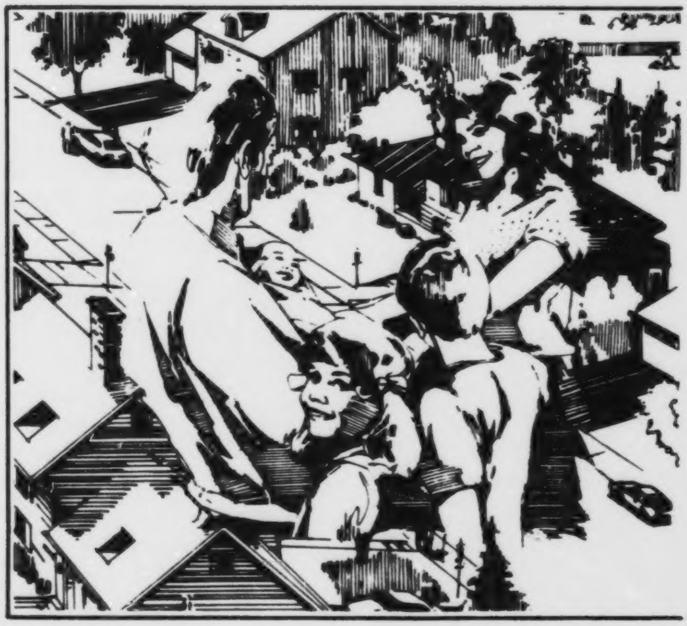
Partners for Prevention



Islanders Talk About Family Violence



VOLUME I

SEPT. 91

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PARTNERS FOR PREVENTION
ISLANDERS TALK ABOUT FAMILY VIOLENCE

Volume I

September 1991

Report

of

the Community Consultation Committee

on

Family Violence Prevention

to

The Honourable Wayne D. Cheverie, Q.C.

Minister of Health and Social Services

Volume I

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report has been made possible because of the interest and participation of hundreds of Islanders, both at the local consultations and through the input of various interest groups. Quotes from the consultations appear within the text.

We want to acknowledge all of those children, women and men whose lives have been affected by family violence. Their stories are at the core of the consultations.

Each community that hosted an event showed great enthusiasm and commitment and thanks are due to the many individuals who formed the local planning committees and those who acted as resource people at the events themselves.

The members of the Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention worked extremely hard over the year. Each one deserves credit for their unique contribution and for their willingness to listen. The group combined their talents in a productive and constructive way and accomplished a great deal of work in a short period of time.

Change requires enormous flexibility and adaptability. A powerful symbol of this was watching the changing reality of one committee member who was pregnant and went on to give birth to a son during this period of time! Thanks Shawn for reminding us of what is really important.

The committee members were (in alphabetical order):

- SANDRA BENTLEY, DIRECTOR OF HOME CARE & SUPPORT DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

- COLIN CAMPBELL, A FOUNDING MEMBER OF TURNING POINT GROUP

- EILEEN CONWAY-MARTIN, COORDINATOR OF THE LENNOX ISLAND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROJECT

- LINDA GALLANT, CHAIRPERSON, ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

- SERGEANT DAVE GRIFFIN, SUMMERSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND REPRESENTING THE PEI CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

- KATHLEEN HAMILTON, THE PEI RAPE & SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS CENTRE

- ANNE LIE-NIELSEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE PEI COUNCIL OF THE DISABLED

- JILL LIGHTWOOD, COORDINATOR, COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

- STEVE MCQUAID, REPRESENTING POLICY BOARD AND CO-CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

- BRENDA PICARD, COORDINATOR OF TRANSITION AND SUPPORT SERVICES, REPRESENTING TRANSITION HOUSE ASSOCIATION, EAST PRINCE

- SERGEANT LORNE SMITH, COMMUNITY POLICING/VICTIM SERVICES, RCMP, REPRESENTING THE PEI CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

- DEPUTY CHIEF PAUL SMITH, CHARLOTTETOWN CITY POLICE, REPRESENTING THE PEI CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

- ALSO, CONSTABLE RICHARD COLLINS, WHO OFTEN ATTENDED COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF DEPUTY CHIEF PAUL SMITH.

The committee extends appreciation to all the agencies who delegated these individuals to the task of steering the consultation process over the past year and to Julie Devon Dodd who facilitated the committee's orientation and provided us with a model for constructive dialogue.

Donna Young, Division of Home Care and Support, deserves a special note of appreciation. She spent many hours, with much attention to detail, arranging and typing this report and many preceding drafts, minutes and other related work.

Thanks also to Janet O'Neill who volunteered to read the draft report and give us feedback.

The consistent presence of Ann Sherman, Executive Director of Community Legal Information Association, staffing a comprehensive display of materials, added to increased awareness and information about family violence. Ann also contributed greatly to easing our inevitable "stage fright" as we prepared to begin each evening's events.

This work has built on the dedicated efforts of many people who have been working for many years to alleviate the suffering of those affected by family violence and to prevent its occurrence.

To all the other individuals and agencies who made the consultations possible, thank you.

Thank you to the Minister of Health and Social Services and his colleagues for the opportunity to participate in this important undertaking.

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* Volume II is available from
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the last decade increased attention has been given to the problem of family violence, with a growing awareness that many people in our communities are affected. As a community we must continue to address prevention if we are going to reduce the long term social and economic consequences to individuals, families and communities.

Violence has been a part of human relationships throughout history. The supporting circumstances for family violence are evident in every aspect of community life. Without proper information the vulnerable continue to be victimized. Other factors include the severity of the problem, the taboo of talking about abuse and the long history of violence against women and children. Violence in the family has reached epidemic proportions. Our collective denial contributes to the continuation of this problem.

The challenge facing the Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention (CCCFVP) was to guide constructive dialogue on the prevention of family violence - a dialogue that would raise awareness and stimulate discussion about prevention at the local level. This involved setting a climate for identifying common beliefs and opinions while at the same time, listening to and respecting divergent points of view.

For many individuals and communities, talking about family violence was enthusiastically acknowledged as an important and concrete step towards prevention. The CCCFVP experienced the community's willingness to struggle with the complexities of family violence prevention at each consultation.

In one short year the CCCFVP has gone a long way to meeting its goals, which were to:

1) **Raise awareness about family violence and current activities;**

2) **Invite a broad spectrum of interest from communities;**

3) **Establish a constructive climate in which to address prevention in the community; and**

4) **Invite dialogue and action on specific prevention strategies from groups and individuals.**

The committee has **INVITED DIALOGUE AND ACTION** both through regional consultations and discussions with interest groups and individuals. Specific ideas on prevention have been collected in Volume II, Section 1.

The committee's task was also to **RAISE AWARENESS** and this was accomplished by involving members of the community in planning and hosting the consultations and encouraging information sharing in small groups.

The newsletter "Dialogue" was a simple way to reach a wide audience **WITH INFORMATION ABOUT ACTIVITIES** both in and out of province. It was a collective venture that depended upon contributions from both community and government.

A public relations strategy, using print and electronic media, also helped to get the message out that **PREVENTION OF FAMILY VIOLENCE IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.** The media demonstrated interest in becoming more active partners in prevention.

The community consultations were a first step in a longer term objective: to develop a plan for the reduction and prevention of family violence. The committee placed **EMPHASIS ON THE PROCESS** by consciously setting out to create a feeling of safety and comfort around this difficult and sometimes controversial topic. Feedback to the committee indicates we successfully **ESTABLISHED A CONSTRUCTIVE CLIMATE IN WHICH TO ADDRESS PREVENTION IN THE COMMUNITY.** Considerable activity was generated in each community involved and the readiness of the communities to name the violence in their midst was a major factor. Communities, like individuals, are at different stages of awareness and capacity to respond.

Finally, it was our task to **INVITE A BROAD SPECTRUM OF INTEREST FROM THE COMMUNITY**. This was most successful as a result of the attention to outreach, respect for process and establishing relationships based on mutual respect and acknowledgment of common goals.

The first step in prevention is bringing the community together to talk about the problem. This was done through consultations held in six locations across the Island as well as in discussions with specific interest groups. Communities expressed interest in continuing this dialogue in the smaller rural communities.

The consultation process was based on the underlying beliefs that communities can solve many of their own problems and that each community has unique features. Communities recognized the complexities of the problem of family violence and the interdependence between the various agencies, groups and systems.

Several themes emerged from the consultations. The themes are interconnected but focus on the underlying issues and indicate a direction for prevention efforts in the future, both long term and short term.

Communities confirmed that **dialogue is prevention** and showed keen interest that the dialogue must be ongoing. Many remarked on the value of the non-condemning atmosphere of the consultations.

Increased awareness is still a need. Family violence is a complex and emotional topic. There are groups in the Island community that have expertise in public education and communities can build on their efforts.

Communities emphasized that prevention efforts should focus on **children and youth as a priority**, including school curricula, identifying children at risk and supporting parents in their difficult job of raising children.

We frequently heard that people **need access to information** about resources and about what to do. This was particularly true in the rural areas. People freely acknowledged their wish to become more involved, to assist in service and prevention, and to learn more about productive partnerships with the systems.

Intervention and treatment were identified as part of prevention efforts. Healing is long term and a variety of helping models were suggested.

Prevention efforts were discussed acknowledging that **some populations are clearly more at risk than others** as targets of violence: children, women, the elderly, those with disabilities, the Aboriginal community and new immigrants.

There is a significant need to improve the **response of the system to** family violence. Across the province people voiced disappointments and fears about the very institutions that should be helping them.

Community confirmed the need for a **holistic approach** to family violence - one that takes the social, economic, political and cultural realities into account, as well as the physical, mental, social and spiritual needs of those affected by family violence.

We found a spectrum of experiences, philosophies and attitudes. Family violence can appear to be a different problem depending upon your perspective. If you believe that the status of women is the central issue then you may not focus on male victims. If you come from a spiritual tradition then you may wonder about the role of forgiveness and healing in prevention. If you are a victim your primary concern may be physical safety for yourself and your dependents. The CCCFVP believes all these dimensions and others as well, have validity and the community must begin to see the whole picture if prevention strategies are to be successful.

To develop a society where violence is not tolerated and where people have some real alternatives will take a long time, but the Island community has demonstrated its willingness to take the next steps. This phase has set the stage for continued action and dialogue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that government continue to work in partnership with community by ensuring that prevention continues to be a shared responsibility by:

- releasing this report as soon as possible to the public so those involved and interested in this process can see the results of their efforts and to encourage new partners to join in the effort;

- committing internal resources for a family violence prevention coordinator to guide next steps.

Recommendation 2

The committee recommends that government continue its commitment to a community development approach to family violence prevention by:

- working with communities towards solutions at the local level;

- building and connecting existing resources;

- facilitating information exchange;

- recognizing the value of citizen involvement;

- recognizing that economic and social aspects are linked.

Recommendation 3

The committee recommends that both government and community continue their leadership role in raising awareness about family violence prevention and that these efforts be targeted at all sectors of the community by:

- building on existing initiatives;

- promoting a major public education campaign with the media, business and service community;

- the production of "Dialogue" as a joint effort.

Recommendation 4

The committee recommends that government, through a mandate for a family violence prevention coordinator, continue the dialogue with community by;

- assisting community groups to access outside sources of funding to support prevention initiatives;

- bringing representatives from the consultations local planning committees together in the Fall 1991;

- providing follow-up assistance for those communities that wish to continue the dialogue and pursue local prevention initiatives;

- supporting dialogue on sensitive issues that need more discussion (e.g. elder abuse, sexual assault);

- supporting dialogue between various sectors of the community;

- assisting the development of local interagency committees.

Recommendation 5

The committee recommends that government working with community groups take a leadership role in improving access to information by:

- exploring the options for a 24 hour toll free crisis line;

- establishing an initial contact point for obtaining information on family violence;

- establishing a plan for distributing information on family violence with consideration for special needs, disabilities, literacy levels, language, etc.

Recommendation 6

The committee recommends government and community prevention efforts be targeted at children and youth by:

- ensuring the topic of family violence and its prevention is included in the family life curriculum from grades 1 - 12;

- encouraging skill development in problem solving, parenting and conflict resolution in the school environment and curricula;

- promoting training as non-violent role models for those who work with children and youth (e.g. teachers, sports coaches, youth leaders, etc.);

- making material on prevention available to agencies working with children (e.g. day cares, kindergartens, Sunday schools, youth serving organizations, etc.);

- encouraging the development of parenting courses in each region of the province in a variety of settings (e.g. in work places, churches, community centres, etc.);

- acknowledging the need for parent support networks in each region with access to and support from helping agencies.

Recommendation 7

The committee recommends that government endorse and promote non-violent conflict resolution in families, schools and communities by:

- identifying primary sites for teaching and modeling conflict resolution;

- encouraging training in conflict resolution skills.

Recommendation 8

The committee recommends that government departments integrate the guiding principles set out in the discussion paper "The Prevention of Family Violence - A Community Response" as a foundation for their work on family violence.

Recommendation 9

The committee recommends that government review and strengthen the response of the systems to those affected by family violence by:

- clarifying the roles and functions of each department or agency;
- identifying the range of services within each system;
- improving the coordination of policies,programs, and service delivery;
- encouraging staff involvement in community-based initiatives.

Recommendation 10

The committee recommends that government support those affected by family violence and recognize that support services are the foundation of prevention strategies by:

- continuing to financially support those agencies which provide services to those affected by family violence;

- assisting communities in the development of shelter options, especially in rural areas;
- facilitating the development of support groups on a decentralized basis.

Recommendation 11

The committee recommends that the specific needs of "at risk" populations be addressed when designing policy and developing programs on prevention by:

- acknowledging and respecting the differences within the spectrum of family violence (e.g. violence against women, elder abuse, sexual abuse, etc.);
- acknowledging and respecting the needs and cultural context of minority populations (e.g. Aboriginal people, new immigrants, etc.).

1.BACKGROUND

Prince Edward Island is primarily a rural province with a population of about 130,000. The province is divided into three counties - King's, Queen's, and Prince. Government services are decentralized into six regional service centres. Included in the population is a high percentage of seniors, a small Aboriginal population, a Francophone region, and small numbers of new Canadians from all over the world.

Although Prince Edward Island is perceived by many to be a pastoral haven, the Island has its share of problems. Like many other communities, citizens in Prince Edward Island are concerned about the increase in crime - particularly the increase in violent crime. There is increasing awareness that some people feel more vulnerable than others; for example, women, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Other issues such as troubled youth, drug and alcohol abuse and dating violence are also of concern.

Families are already facing difficulties in meeting their basic needs for food and housing. Economic and social factors are interrelated and any prevention strategy requires a coordinated approach - otherwise the very systems that are meant to help become part of the problem.

Family violence is just as much a problem here as in any big centre - in fact, the difficulty of remaining anonymous in a rural community probably keeps many victims silent. However, the Island community also has a strong tradition of neighbours helping neighbours which can be built upon.

In May 1989, the Interministerial Committee on Family Violence (IMCFV) was established under the leadership of the Department of Health and Social Services. Part of the mandate of the committee included developing a long-term plan for the reduction of family violence on the Island.

Policy Board endorsed the establishment of the Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention (CCCFVP) to guide the first step in a community-based strategy on the prevention of family violence.

The one year mandate of the CCCFVP beginning in September 1990, was to:

1) Raise awareness about family violence and current activities;

2) Invite a broad spectrum of interest from communities;

3) Establish a constructive climate in which to address prevention in the community; and

4) Invite dialogue and action on specific prevention strategies from groups and individuals.

The discussion paper, "**The Prevention of Family Violence-a Community Response**" provided the framework for the consultations. The discussion paper contains some basic principles that have been endorsed by government as the foundation for the task of the Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention. They are as follows:

1. **NO SINGLE INDIVIDUAL, AGENCY OR SYSTEM CAN EFFECTIVELY RESPOND TO FAMILY VIOLENCE. THERE MUST BE A COMMITMENT TO WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS VIOLENCE-FREE COMMUNITIES**

2. **AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE MUST ALSO INCLUDE INCREASED AWARENESS AND A CHANGE IN PUBLIC ATTITUDES**

3. **VIOLENCE IN RELATIONSHIPS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE**

4. **SPECIAL ATTENTION MUST BE GIVEN TO RESPECT THE SURVIVOR'S CAPACITIES FOR SELF-DETERMINATION**

5. **OFFENDERS SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR BEHAVIOR AND TREATMENT OPTIONS BE AVAILABLE TO THEM**

6. **EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO LIVE IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT**

7. **EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO ACCESSIBLE QUALITY AND CONSISTENT SERVICES**

8. **AN EFFECTIVE AND HUMANE RESPONSE REQUIRES A SHARED PHILOSOPHY AND A COORDINATED COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

9. **THE RESPONSE TO FAMILY VIOLENCE MUST INCLUDE ELEMENTS OF INTERVENTION, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION.**

The consultations have built on these guiding principles and have explored how they can be actualized. This report with eleven (11) recommendations is based on these consultations with the community and sets the stage for a second phase in the struggle to prevent family violence.

2.DEFINITIONS

Working definitions of some terms that are used throughout this report are as follows:

"Family violence" refers to spousal abuse, child abuse, neglect and abuse of the mentally and physically frail and any other form of violence between people who have an intimate or on-going relationship with each other. Family violence can take the form of physical, emotional, psychological, sexual or financial abuse. A common link between all these forms of violence is that there is usually an imbalance of power between the main players.

Family is "those persons on whom an individual can depend for emotional support, who are available in crises and emergencies, or who provide continuing affection, concern, and companionship"...."Members of such a family may live together in the same household or in separate households, alone or with others; they may be related by birth or marriage, or by choice and commitment to one another that has not been legally formalized".[1]

Prevention

a)**Primary Prevention (Health Promotion):** Actions aimed at increasing the health and well-being of all. Primary prevention includes public awareness and community education. The focus may be on raising awareness of potential problem areas and educating on different ways of meeting needs. It may also address attitudes. One example of an attitude change is the expectation of gender roles. It is believed that rigid gender roles exist in violent situations and may contribute to violence.

b)**Secondary Prevention:** Actions aimed at early intervention directed towards those with a higher than average chance or risk for difficulty, for example programs aimed at children from homes where they have witnessed or experienced violence.

c)**Tertiary Prevention (Treatment):** Actions which lead to stopping or keeping something from recurring. Treatment is aimed at curing or halting a condition or providing special assistance to help with an ongoing problem or condition. An example of this is treatment groups for men who are violent towards their female partners.

1. Bernice Lott, Women's Lives

Community-based strategy simply means that the ownership of the problem, and therefore of the solutions, lies with the whole community. **Community** can mean both a community that defines itself geographically as well as a group who have a common interest (e.g. a congregation, a community agency, a group lobbying for change, etc.). In this report we distinguish between community and government, but the community includes government agencies and the Island itself can be viewed as one community.

3.THE PROCESS FOR DIALOGUE

The process was based on the underlying concept that communities can solve many of their own problems. The CCCFVP solicited input from a wide variety of interest groups and their wider communities. The process followed some basic **community work principles**. These are as follows:

Local Solutions To Local Problems

Each community is unique and the members of that community are the best ones to take the lead on any prevention strategies. We worked with local planning committees who sensitively guided us on the event to be held in their community.

It is important that local communities be given the tools to facilitate this kind of development. At the same time, as the Island itself can be viewed as one community, strategies at a provincial level can also be developed.

Developing Solutions As Close As Possible To The Source Of The Problem

The most successful strategies are those that develop solutions as close as possible to the problem. Those involved in violent situations can be very helpful in providing us with insights into practical and meaningful solutions. The activities must be relevant to specific communities. Again, the local planning committees and local resource people helped us to be respectful of local issues and local resources.

Mobilizing The Community

The starting point has to be where the community "is at" - or the readiness of the community. The local planning committees provided guidance to the CCCFVP and helped us determine the appropriate action and format of the local consultations.

Recognizing The Potential For Citizen Involvement

At the start of the process some key players in each community were identified and an attempt was made to involve them. Many people in each community were involved in a variety of ways: as members of a local planning committee, as resource people and as volunteers in a number of capacities at the event. Their input and participation was essential to the success of the consultations and to the potential for continued momentum in their communities.

Emphasizing Relationships And Communication

Throughout the process the importance of respectful and constructive communication to productive relationships was stressed. A communication model was endorsed and practiced by the committee beginning with our orientation to the task and continuing into each consultation, resulting in the final acceptance of this report as a statement of consensus of the committee.

The principles of constructive communication were also applied at the meetings of the local planning committees as well as at the events themselves. The emphasis was on facilitating dialogue between individuals with different perspectives and experiences. The end result was an enhanced understanding of the issues and more effective problem solving.

Building On Existing Structures

During the consultations, an attempt was made to build on and strengthen existing structures and networks. This increased the possibility of ongoing momentum at the local level. In the longer term, these prevention efforts must include even broader community participation which is critical to sustaining community ownership.

Believing In The Ability Of Communities To Solve Their Own Problems

This is a fundamental premise of respect and confidence in people to develop solutions whether or not they have any "professional" training on the issue of family violence. The emphasis was on providing assistance, support and resources to local groups. Each person attending the consultation was supported and encouraged to contribute their thoughts and ideas about preventing violence as individuals, as families and as community members.

Setting The Stage

Within the time limits, as much attention as possible was paid to "setting the stage". In preparing for each consultation, the committee attempted to learn about the community, gather any data available, build contacts and identify sensitive areas.

Limitations On Process

The community work principles noted above contributed greatly to the success of the process, however, there were some limitations experienced by the committee during the year. These were mainly due to time limits as well as our eagerness to do more than a one-year time frame would allow.

Essentially a year is not a sufficient time for an indepth community development effort. Although the committee made excellent use of available time and resources, constraints created limitations to the depth and breadth of community involvement. Originally, the committee had visions of being able to get into the smaller rural communities and even holding "kitchen table style" meetings. This was not possible. The committee also found it frustrating to be able to offer so little in the way of follow-up to each community.

Time limits affected the committee in its own process of exploring the issues. Although the committee did a lot of sharing at a personal and professional level, it would have been helpful to further explore differences in philosophy and to spend more time on analysis of both family violence issues and community development potential for each area.

Our concerns were alleviated when we experienced the enthusiasm, hope and commitment to safer communities across the Island. Also we knew that this process was the beginning phase of a long term strategy.

4. THE COMMITTEE

The CCCFVP was co-chaired by Health and Social Services and Policy Board. It functioned as a steering committee to guide the consultation process. The committee included representatives from some of the community agencies involved in the issue. A staff person was shared between Justice and Social Services to coordinate the process.

Before the committee began its work, the members took part in a one and a half day orientation session at Belcourt Lodge. The purpose was to develop a strong team approach by exploring perspectives and building trust between the committee members.

The orientation session took the committee members through a process that was later reflected in the community consultations. The group practiced respectful, non-violent means of communication. The members acknowledged and honored the spectrum of opinions and viewpoints within the group. This initial session proved to be an important model for structuring the on-going process in the broader community and for establishing a diverse but cohesive committee that could immediately and effectively start accomplishing its goals.

The committee, as a whole, developed a detailed work plan to effectively manage the task and to set realistic objectives given the restricted time frame.

The committee planned at the outset to conduct a minimum of six regional consultations and to solicit input from a broad cross-section of interest groups.

The full committee met on a regular basis and established five working groups to focus on particular tasks. These working groups focused on:

- the management tasks of the committee,
- public relations,
- the production of "Dialogue",*
- developing an attitude survey, and
- planning the interest groups consultations.

In addition to these sub-committees, local planning committees were established for each regional consultation.

* **Dialogue"**, was a short newsletter published approximately once a month. This served as a vehicle for information exchange on activities relating to family violence as well as another way to keep the community informed about the work of the committee. (Volume II, Section 2).

The committee also began **developing two survey instruments.** One was intended to be a tool to gather information on current attitudes towards family violence on Prince Edward Island; the second to help establish the priorities for prevention strategies. Discussions with personnel from the University of Prince Edward Island have been held and funding possibilities are being explored for conducting this research through the Interministerial Committee on Family Violence.

The importance of applying these tools inter-departmentally as well as within the general community was identified by the feedback we received.

The team efforts of the committee contributed greatly to the success of the consultations. A great deal of trust and support developed among the members of the committee. The time spent in orientation, preparation, post consultation debriefing and process time were vital ingredients. None of this would have been possible without the commitment of the individuals involved as well as the various organizations they represented.

Responsibility for the work was shared, with each person being able to give as their talents and time allowed. In many ways the committee was a microcosm of the larger community and demonstrated that partnerships can work. Our success, however, did depend on agreements to respect confidentiality, to be responsible for our own participation and to respect differences. We also had to learn to accept our own limitations and in doing so found that the response of others was generally supportive and our talents complementary.

Almost everyone involved was doing this work "on the margin" even though it took a lot of work and a great deal of personal commitment. It is evident that as a community we are spending vast amounts of resources trying to deal with the results of violence in the family. It is a sad but a common state of affairs that prevention efforts are to be squeezed in between our "real" work. It also speaks to the need for broader community involvement so we can maximize the focus on prevention.

Ongoing **liaison with the Interministerial Committee on Family Violence (IMCFV)** was very important. Three members of the CCCFVP, the co-chairs and the staff person, also serve on the IMCFV. The IMCFV was kept up to date on the progress of the CCCFVP.

Anything that emerged during the consultation process that more properly belonged to the mandate of the IMCFV was referred. An example of this would be the need for the IMCFV to take on the role of provincial review body for proposals under the new Federal Initiative on Family Violence. Other examples include providing feedback on service provision at the community level, reviewing existing protocols and identifying points of coordination.

5.THE LOCAL CONSULTATIONS

One goal of the committee was to conduct consultations across the Island. It was anticipated each consultation would develop its own "flavor", depending upon the level of existing community response to family violence, the individuals and organizations involved in the planning, and the particular community in which the event would be held.

The Events

Consultations were held in six locations, each served by a regional service centre. Volume II, Section 3 contains a more detailed account of each event.

The first event was held in **West Prince, on November 20th, 1990**. The West Prince Interagency Committee co-sponsored the event and it was held at Westisle Composite High School.

The second consultation was held on **January 29th, 1991 in East Prince**. It was held in Summerside at the Three Oaks High School and co-sponsored by the East Prince Committee on Family Violence and the Summerside Citizens' Crime Prevention Committee.

The **Southern King's and Queen's** and the **Eastern King's events** were held quite close together on **April 23rd and 25th, 1991**, respectively, to be completed before the fishing season started.

The Southern King's and Queen's Advisory Board co-sponsored the event held at the Montague Regional High School. A follow-up meeting was set by the community before the consultation event was held.

In Souris, people came to the Souris Hospital. The local area churches and the local planning committee co-hosted this event. The discussions were in- depth and quite lively.

The **Evangeline area** held a consultation on **May 29th, 1991** at the "Centre d'Education Evangeline". A large percentage of the participants were youth, thanks to Jeunesse Acadienne who co-hosted with the 3 parish councils. The event was conducted in a mixture of both official languages and the material was available in both languages.

The **Queen's County** consultation, which was the final event, took place in Charlottetown on **June 25th, 1991** at Holland College, Charlottetown Centre.

Over the course of the consultations, hundreds of people attended. At each event, the community responded with enthusiasm and a willingness to engage in discussion.

Follow Up Activities

The committee conducted some follow-up to each consultation. The information gathered at the consultation was fed back to the sponsoring group(s). Also, an invitation was extended to the sponsor(s) to meet with representatives of the CCCFVP. Each community has taken steps to continue the dialogue and build on previous work in the communities.

Setting The Stage

Before each planning committee began its work in earnest, an initial meeting was held with a number of key people in the community who had an expressed interest in the topic. This helped us set the stage for the event. We learned about the history of the community and activities that had taken place on the issue of family violence. It also made us aware of issues that might be potentially sensitive ones and alerted us to the common hopes and fears expressed in the community. Out of this process, co-sponsoring group or groups were identified.

Planning Process

A small local planning committee was established with representatives from the CCCFVP, the co-sponsoring group(s), and any other interested individuals. Staff from local police agencies and various government departments with a specific mandate in this field were often involved.

The local planning committee then identified individuals who were willing to act as resource people at the consultation. Some acted as facilitators and recorders for the small group discussions which were the heart of the consultations. Others helped with preparing kits, greeting participants and preparing refreshments. The CCCFVP recognized that during a consultation, feelings or powerful memories might surface and it was important to provide a supportive and appropriate response to this. With this in mind, local people were available during and after the consultation to provide one-on-one support and counselling to anyone who sought them out.

Media

A key factor in establishing the constructive climate of the consultations was the deliberate public relations strategy which recognized that the media plays a major role in molding perceptions and attitudes. By developing guidelines for media contact and participation the committee took a pro-active position regarding media.

For each regional consultation, releases were provided to all Island media and personal contact was made with the local media. As an important sector of the community, they were invited to be partners in the process. They were also expected to respect the general agreements made by the participants during the consultation and invited to join discussions as community members.

The print media have participated in all the consultations. In addition, various opportunities have been taken by the media to highlight the work of the committee and to promote the idea of public responsibility for preventing family violence. Some press clippings are contained in Volume II, Section 6.

The Format

Although the format of each community consultation varied somewhat, there were common elements. These included:

- an effort to attract people to the consultation from the outlying communities;
- a local person to act as the "host" for the evening;
- kits for participants which included information on local and provincial resources;
- time on the agenda for the local co-sponsoring group(s) to tell the participants about local activities;
- background information about the CCCFVP and its mandate;

- basic agreements for participation were secured, for example, respecting the confidentiality of personal sharing;

- a personalized presentation on the impact of family violence;

- orientation for facilitators to ensure everyone had the opportunity to share their views and ideas and to understand the importance of agreements on participation;

- feedback from small groups followed by a general discussion to identify common themes, concerns, and ideas for follow-up;

- an evaluation of the evening;

- an extensive display of materials related to family violence, services available, and some prevention materials provided and staffed by Community Legal Information Association.

The Committee put a lot of effort into creating a safe climate for discussion on this very sensitive topic. This was time well spent. The importance of **respect for confidentiality** cannot be be over emphasized. First the participants were asked to respect the basic agreements. The statements which were agreed to at each consultation were:

- **to be 100% responsible for our own participation,**
- **to respect the confidentiality of personal sharing,**
- **to respect the need for different ideas and opinions,**
- **to give everyone a chance to speak and**
- **to choose whether to participate or not.**

Also, the chair for the evening spent some time acknowledging and personalizing the difficulties of the subject matter. For most of us the powerful images, memories of our own experiences and our perceptions can impede discussion on the topic. The participants were urged to respect differences and be careful listeners.

At every consultation there were local support people named and available to offer one-to-one support to anyone who chose to use it. This service was accessed confirming that when there is dialogue about family violence the need for support must be anticipated.

Finally, the presentation on family violence was approached from a personal point of view. The presentation took different formats in different locations but always emphasized that any one of us can be caught in a violent situation. The deliberate plan to use personal experience as the catalyst was an effective way to cut through denial and common myths. The ground rules helped enhance the safety of the person sharing their story or experience. The ensuing dialogue helped to deepen the understanding and provided valuable information.

This personal approach seemed to have the effect of moving people "from their heads to their hearts". When this happens many of us can suspend our judgments and begin to truly listen to our neighbours. This was illustrated most dramatically at the

Queen's County Consultation where a group of actors gave voice to the words of real people who have been affected by family violence.

Although told in different ways, these personal stories each included some important messages: **there is no shame in having experienced family violence; few among us have not been touched by it; there is hope that things can be different; and the negative impact of violence can be overcome with insight, commitment and support.**

Evaluation Of The Process

At each consultation an evaluation of the process was conducted. An oral evaluation was conducted that focused on what worked well and what could be improved. A written evaluation form was filled out and returned before the end of the evening. The summary of the written evaluations is included in Volume II, Section 4.

People were encouraged to give their ideas and opinions without the pressure of trying to reach consensus in small groups. This factor allowed for the maximum input. Sometimes the small groups went beyond the time allotted on the agenda. The success of the small group depended to some extent on how quickly the group became engaged in dialogue. The communities commented on the need for more time because the process met or exceeded their expectations for the evening.

The planning process prior to the consultation built the foundation for successful events. The local planning committees took a great deal of ownership of the events and assisted the Consultation Committee to enter their community and engage in a meaningful dialogue. Each planning committee had input into the format of the evening, the questions to be discussed by the small groups, the pace of the evening and so on. Having the local agencies co-sponsor the events was positive and opened avenues to various resources (e.g. advertising in local newsletters, church bulletins, use of community buildings, etc.).

The written evaluations confirmed that people learned about the events from many sources (press, mailouts, newsletters, school notices, church bulletins etc.). We learned from follow-up meetings that personal contact was the most effective tool in overcoming people's hesitation about coming to a meeting on family violence.

The Consultation Committee learned after the events that a number of other people would have attended the meeting if they had known the topic was to be dealt with sensitively. This underlies the need for a balanced approach and the need to help people feel comfortable and safe. It also is indicative of the numbers of citizens who could be involved in any subsequent activities.

Community Legal Information Association (CLIA) provided a comprehensive array of information on many aspects of family violence and related topics and personally attended the display at each event. This was appreciated by all the communities. It became clear that many people did not realize there was so much quality material available at no charge or that some toll free lines do exist in the province. Over and over again we heard that people need and want more information, especially in the rural areas.

The cooperation of the press in each area was also appreciated and meant that the awareness and discussion about family violence was carried to the broader community by way of their promotion, participation and coverage.

6.THE INTEREST GROUPS

The committee met with interest groups in an attempt to involve as many sectors of the community as possible. An initial mail out of the discussion paper, "The Prevention of Family Violence - A Community Response" resulted in some feedback. A more deliberate attempt to solicit interest was made by mailing out a letter to about 150 selected groups. We met with every group that requested a meeting and received written submissions from some.

See Volume II, Section 5 for written presentations and summaries of the main points.

The consultations with interest groups took several forms. In some instances members of our committee met with a group at their regular meeting or a special meeting was arranged. In other cases representatives from groups came to a committee meeting of the CCCFVP.

The committee met with representatives of:

- the Alcohol & Drug Problems Institute
- Anderson House Staff
- the Catholic Women's League
- the Native Council of PEI
- the PEI Council of Labor
- National Association of Women and the Law
- the PEI Medical Association

- the PEI Nurses Association
- PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Crisis Centre
- the PEI School Trustees Association
- Services for Adult Survivors
- Theatre PEI
- Transition House Association
- and the Youth Advisory Committee (group of adolescents consulting with Transition House Association).

We also met with Mr. Frank Bulger representing himself. The committee received written submission from several of the groups as well as a letter from the PEI Guidance and Counselling Association.

7.COMMUNITY RESPONSE

As one of the goals of the consultation was to promote the idea of local solutions to local problems, the CCCFVP has been extremely pleased to learn about activities that have grown out of the consultation process. Specific examples are given here to illustrate the potential of a process to create a response at the community level.

At one consultation several women availed themselves of the one-on-one support. This then became the catalyst to begin a support group for abused women. It is noteworthy they gravitated to the local outreach worker from a community-based organization rather than to the support people associated with government.

At this same event several men disclosed they had been violent in their relationships. This gave very positive messages to the community: the reality of violence around us can no longer be denied, there is help available and these behaviors can be changed.

At another evening's event, there were several key players from the Christian community. Comments were made about the role of the Church in the prevention of family violence and the need to address the spiritual dimension of family violence which was perceived absent in the original analysis. A Ministerial Association decided to take on the issue of family violence for a three month period, first by educating themselves and then by addressing the issue with their congregations. One of the co-sponsoring groups worked with this group to provide information and identify resources.

In another community the planning committee held a follow-up meeting shortly after the consultation. At this meeting the participants organized themselves into working groups to look at issues such as a needs assessment, a resource centre, support groups and education.

Almost all the groups discussed in follow-up meetings the desire to hold public information sessions using local resource people.

We also heard of various initiatives taken by interest groups following the consultations - examples of this are resolutions passed at annual general meetings, and planning for education and information targeted at their membership (e.g. The PEI Medical Society, Catholic Women's League, PEI Association of Nurses).

Many of the interest groups we met with have been pioneers in the field for many years and will continue to take a vital role in changing attitudes and building networks.

8.MAJOR THEMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Several themes were consistently voiced across the Island communities. The spirit of readiness to work as individuals, families and communities was encouraging.

A) Partnership With Community;

Community ownership and involvement is necessary for successful prevention programs. One of the exciting aspects of the consultations has been the evidence that **the community is willing to get involved.** This has expressed itself in a number of ways including a desire for education and training in intervention, a commitment to continuing the dialogue, a search for ways to start support groups etc.

"This was a great idea."

"I had lots of fun and learned a lot!"

A community development approach "requires changing from a stance of doing for others to one of standing alongside others to support their efforts". Each community is unique and has its own way to get things done. Whatever strategies develop must be respectful of this and be flexible to truly meet the needs of the community.

"A community becomes dysfunctional when its individuals do not recognize their responsibilities. All individuals have a responsibility to prevention."

Although there are many points of consensus across the province, there is a regional disparity in attitudes, perceptions and priorities regarding family violence. There are also differences in the services available. Communities do not have access to the same resources or information.

The public demand for increased services in rural areas is coupled with a willingness to work on the issues if given effective support and direction.

To become true partners communities must be given the necessary tools - including expertise, training, encouragement, support, information, appropriate catalysts, resource sharing, etc.

Training is an area to pursue by building on the current programs in the community. A good example is the pre-marriage programs offered by some churches. In the context of learning about positive ways to relate to one's partner, couples could learn the potential for violence exists in all relationships and learn concrete ways to deal with stress and conflict. Other areas of focus could be caregivers, youth serving organizations, etc.

Many within our communities are willing to learn new skills. We also have many willing teachers; some are from volunteer agencies with a particular area of expertise, some are survivors of violence, some have special skills or an ability to teach by being a good role model or through the stories of their life experience.

"I'm happy to see that our community has finally opened its eyes to the problem of family violence."

"How can I help?"

A thread throughout the local consultations was the involvement of the Church. The Christian church is an institution that has a major influence on many people's lives in the province. Many church leaders across the nation are admitting their limitations of knowledge and in some cases their role in perpetuating violence. In Prince Edward Island mobilization of church resources to confront family violence is an achievable goal.

Communities are willing to accept the responsibility to help one another but need the assistance and the resources to begin.

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that government continue to work in partnership with community by ensuring that prevention continues to be a shared responsibility by:

- releasing this report as soon as possible to the public so those involved and interested in this process can see the results of their efforts and to encourage new partners to join in the effort;

- committing internal resources for a family violence prevention coordinator to guide the next steps.

Recommendation 2

The committee recommends that government continue its commitment to a community development approach to family violence prevention by;

- working with communities towards solutions at the local level;
- building and connecting existing resources;
- facilitating information exchange;
- recognizing the value of citizen involvement;
- recognizing that economic and social aspects are linked.

B) Increasing Awareness

Dialogue leads to increased awareness. **Education is key** to eliminating violence in our society. During the consultations it became clear that there is a lot of work to do in raising awareness about the tragic reality of family violence and existing supports. Although communities know family violence is occurring, many people are still not aware how prevalent it is, where help is available or how best to support those in difficulty. Hearing first hand accounts raises awareness in a very productive way. With this kind of awareness comes a sense of " ownership " of the problem.

Communities were relieved to acknowledge the problem and are looking for guidance. It is encouraging that this is being acknowledged by many sectors of the community - seniors, youth, professionals, church communities, social services and business sectors. Raising awareness with the goal of developing supportive networks within communities was emphasized.

More effective ways of getting the message across, especially to our young people who have grown up with the electronic media, are necessary. We live in a society with competing messages and many promote the use of violence as a problem solver. Prevention of family violence messages need to be effectively marketed. At every consultation we were told about the need for a public education campaign similar to the one on impaired driving.

"I am a student very interested in organizing youth ... Teens are often more willing to make a difference if informed on how to help."

People are asking how they can shelter their children from destructive messages. Some examples include: women are appropriate targets for violence: only the strong win: some people are more important than others. These kind of messages are the daily fare for many young people, helping form a view of the world through videos, cartoon heroes, television programs, books and magazines. Parents and grandparents are concerned about this phenomena and need help to support each other in their efforts.

The media plays a large role in forming our attitudes and beliefs. The opinion was expressed quite often that the media need more awareness about this topic and must be engaged in seeking solutions.

Recommendation 3

The committee recommends that both government and community continue their leadership role in raising awareness about family violence prevention and that these efforts be targeted at all sectors of the community by:

- building on existing initiatives;
- promoting a major public education campaign with the media, business and service community;
- the production of "Dialogue" as a joint effort.

C) Dialogue is Prevention

There is a strong confirmation that **talking about the problem of family violence is the first step to preventing it.** Silence has cloaked the issue. The reasons include the sense of shame, the fear of condemnation by the community, the struggle by some offenders to retain power and control and the implicit approval given in many ways by our culture to use force and fear of force as a problem solver.

"I appreciated the non-condemming climate of discussions."

Family violence is not only a problem between individuals it is a societal problem. Our major social institutions can now become part of the solution by learning to recognize family violence, to intervene effectively and to be supportive to intervention by others. A willingness to listen to those affected by violence will help all our systems respond with increased sensitivity.

Communities know that family violence is occurring with alarming regularity in their midst. There is a taboo about talking about it. When people feel helpless they tend to retreat or assume someone else will take care of it.

Breaking the silence first at the community level is important in **breaking the cycle of violence**. Safety, respect for differences and the availability of social support systems are necessary ingredients.

We will always need to talk about this problem. Dialogue will continue to be an essential part of the process.

"Marvellous evening - helpful to me personally and professionally. Thanks!"

"Continuez notre beau travail."

Recommendation 4

The committee recommends that government, through a mandate for a family violence prevention coordinator, continue the dialogue with community by:

- assisting community groups to access outside sources of funding to support prevention initiatives;
- bringing representatives from the consultations local planning committees together in the Fall 1991;
- providing follow-up assistance for those communities that wish to continue the dialogue and pursue local pevention initiatives;
- supporting dialogue on sensitive issues that need more discussion (e.g. elder abuse, sexual assault);
- supporting dialogue between various sectors of the community;
- assisting the development of local interagency committees.

D) Need For Access To Information;

There is a lack of information and resources, particularly in the rural communities. Although there has been considerable progress on the issue of family violence, many people in the community do not have ready access to basic information - for example, what to do if you know a child is at risk or where to go for support.

People in all the communities where a consultation was held were extremely pleased with the quantity and quality of information CLIA provided.

The committee was concerned to learn that many people are not aware of the services currently available on the Island, for example, the toll free lines.

The expressed need for more information is an area in which government can take leadership. **Information provided should be available on a decentralized basis.** Various options could be explored, particularly making use of any existing resources in the outlying communities that already deal with the provision of information.

Many people have special needs accessing information which should be a consideration. We need to facilitate access for people with disabilities, provide bilingual material, provide information for new immigrants, and find ways to reach those unable to read, travel or living in remote areas.

Ideas on access to information were suggested. A clearinghouse function - a central access point for information on programs, services and resources was frequently identified. The suggestion was made repeatedly for an easily accessible help line - an initial point of contact where people can find out what to do and where to go for help, counselling, protection or information for themselves or for someone they are trying to help.

"I had no idea of the amount of information available on this topic."

It also makes sense to use computer technology to gather, store, compare and disseminate information wherever possible. Public education will be more successful if information is aimed at specific target groups and material is designed accordingly through multi-media approaches.

Recommendation 5

The committee recommends that government working with community groups take a leadership role in improving access to information by:

- exploring the options for a 24 hour toll free crisis line;
- establishing an initial contact point for obtaining information on family violence;
- establishing a plan for distributing information on family violence with consideration for special needs,disabilities, literacy levels, language, etc.

E) Children and Youth as a Priority;

There was frequent agreement on **the need for preventive education at an early age.** Teaching children positive ways of relating and becoming more child centred as a society will help reduce violence in the family.

The development of the family life curriculum provides an ideal opportunity to include conflict resolution training in the schools. It is not curricula alone that changes children's behaviors and perspectives but the role models they see - for example how a teacher deals with a playground conflict in a non-violent manner may have more impact than a lesson given out of a book. Community members have a role in supporting teachers with this task.

School is a prime location to reach children in their early years but there are other opportunities such as Sunday school classes, sports teams, recreation programs, youth clubs etc. All communities expressed the need to provide information and positive role models at the earliest ages, beginning in preschool and elementary levels and continuing into the later grades.

Our youth need the tools to build a better world- and they are eager to do it. They too know about violence in the home and want adults in their community to provide leadership. Parents need "no fault" assistance in raising children without violence and learning to relate to one another without violence.

Another issue around children is early identification of "children at risk". A willingness in the community to do something about this problem exists, but common questions, asked by professionals and lay people alike are "how can I identify a child at risk?" and "what can I do about it?"

"Although we have a lot of work to do, we should take a step back and realize how far we have come. Twenty years ago when my mother was a teacher, if any child talked about ... abuse, they had to keep it quiet."

Parents are asking for help - help to guide their children, help when their children are on the wrong track, even help for their adult children whom they still long to support but sometimes are at a loss to know how.

Parent support groups and help lines came up frequently as part of the solution. Families are feeling the strain of child rearing, particularly in situations of economic need.

"We need to promote healthy family life in order to get to the root of the problem rather than always aiding."

Efforts to focus on children and youth are in harmony with the United Nations The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the concept of "first call" advanced in the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report on "State of the World's Children" 1990.

The "first call" concept makes the case that children should have the first call on society's resources and should be able to depend on that commitment.

Recommendation 6

The committee recommends government and community prevention efforts be targeted at children and youth by:

- ensuring the topic of family violence and its prevention is included in the family life curriculum from grades 1 - 12;
- encouraging skill development in problem solving, parenting and conflict resolution in the school environment and curricula;
- promoting training as non-violent role models for those who work with children and youth (e.g. teachers, sports coaches, youth leaders, etc.);
- making material on prevention available to agencies working with children (e.g. day cares, kindergartens, Sunday schools, youth serving organizations, etc.);
- encouraging the development of parenting courses in each region of the province in a variety of settings (e.g. in work places, churches, community centres, etc.);
- acknowledging the need for parent support networks in each region with access to and support from helping agencies.

F) Conflict Resolution;

It was frequently suggested that **we must learn non-violent methods of conflict resolution.** The school environment was seen as an ideal location but conflict resolution skills can be taught in many contexts (e.g. pre-marriage courses, employee programs, congregations, etc.). In fact, every sector must get better at using conflict resolution methods if we are to build a world based on respect rather than dominance.

"We cannot continue to cheer violence in some circumstances and condemn it in others."

Recommendation 7

The committee recommends that government endorse and promote non-violent conflict resolution in families, schools and communities by:

- identifying primary sites for teaching and modeling conflict resolution;
- encouraging training in conflict resolution skills.

G) The Response of the System

Dialogue is needed internally in government and among the service providers. The process used over this last year provides an important frame of reference.

The professional community was often perceived as not behaving as part of the community. The community was quick to point out those sectors who were missing and it is interesting that these groups were often those perceived to hold a lot of power in our society - police, doctors, politicians (both provincial and municipal) to name a few. Also under-represented, but not very often remarked upon by the participants, was the business community.

"Why are there so few 'social workers', 'teachers', 'police', 'doctors', 'lawyers' here tonight?"

There appeared to be distrust of formal services in many communities especially in rural areas, due in part, to a limited understanding of mandates, goals and existing services. However the problem seems deeper than this and includes fear of and lack of confidence in helping agencies that is supposed to be helping.

There is a perception the "system" just doesn't work; it lets people down and doesn't address many of the real problems. People talked about a lack of responsiveness, a lack of trust, and a fear that once the system gets hold of you as a "case" you will have lost control of your life, your privacy, your dignity and in some cases the very safety the system should provide.

Confidentiality was a big concern. The lack of policies on confidentiality between systems can be an obstacle to providing intervention when it is needed and there is a concern that confidentiality is not always respected.

The mandates and limitations of various agencies and institutions are not always clear not only to the public at large, but between systems.

"It's unfortunate when clients seek counselling from me rather than legal advice" **(lawyer).**

Services are often crisis orientated. Sometimes people want ideas on how to prevent a situation. For example, we have a child abuse line for reporting, but no line to call if you want advice on disciplining your children appropriately.

"I wanted support and guidance to improve my situation not the crisis created by the helpers."

Services are not always available in a crisis and so people do not get the help when a crisis forces them to be open to intervention.

At the root of this discontent are several realities: the community perceives the system to be self serving rather than client-centered; the workers in the field are generally overwhelmed with case loads and there is a lack of coordination between systems. **This is a serious state of affairs particularly in a time of limited resources and needs of immense proportions.**

Government needs a serious examination of how resources are being spent to become more effective in directing resources to meet the needs. Communities can examine their priorities and look at better ways to utilize their resources.

If systems are going to change, the community needs to be informed and involved, as well as willing to play a role. Again the theme is government and community working together.

Various strategies can help improve the response of the system; better training, improved policies and procedures, clearly articulated mandates and the development of protocols.

An example of how this might work is seen in the developing operation of Turning Point Group. Here the involvement of an interagency group to provide counselling to men who batter is a "win - win" situation; the group gets the resources they need, the professionals in the system get the additional training they need, the relationships between agencies are cemented on a personal level, the expertise becomes decentralized and the systems involved begin the process of coordination. Surely this model can be applied to other areas.

We need a number of different service delivery models. Family violence is not one problem but many complex and serious problems often woven together through the fabric of peoples' lives and often down through the generations.

There will never be one definitive solution. We need to develop different options and types of services so individuals and families can choose the most appropriate match for their situation. Some of these options will be our current services for example mental health clinics, child and family services and family counselling agencies. Other options include peer counselling models, self-help groups and support groups. We need to look at the way our current services are being provided and change our approach and methods because the community is telling us their needs are not being adequately met.

A one point access to services could do a lot to reduce frustrations and anxieties for those who need services by providing clear information about each government and community agency and their role.

Treatment and services for those affected by family violence are essential components of prevention. There is a need for a broader spectrum of services spread across the Island.

A growing public demand exists for more effective criminal justice intervention, stronger sentencing and mandatory treatment of offenders, consistent laying of charges and better trained judiciary and other criminal justice personnel. Some victims report the system's response is as abusive as the abuse itself.

Recommendation 8

The committee recommends that government departments integrate the guiding principles set out in the discussion paper "The Prevention of Family Violence - A Community Response" as a foundation for their work on family violence.

Recommendation 9

The committee recommends that government review and strengthen the response of the systems to those affected by family violence by:

- clarifying the roles and functions of each department or agency;
- identifying the range of services within each system;
- improving the coordination of policies, programs, and service delivery;
- encouraging staff involvement in community-based initiatives.

H) Intervention and Treatment;

Early identification is only a first step and many people, including professionals, are asking the subsequent question, "what do I do next?"

There are no simple answers to this question. Our helpers need to feel more adequate to the task. Sometimes even those working in the field are not aware of services other agencies have to offer or other supports in the community. There is frequently little partnership among the helpers or with the persons affected.

The willingness of the community went far beyond sympathy. Many people expressed the desire to be of service if they knew what would be helpful. A concerted effort at sharing information, in training both our professionals and our lay community in how to prevent, intervene and alleviate the suffering caused by family violence is needed.

Various self-help groups exist in the community on a variety of other issues; for example parents support groups, groups of incest survivors, groups for abused women, peer counselling groups etc.

Support groups are cost-effective, empowering, easy to decentralize and accessible. They often include the concept of strict anonymity which creates security for individuals who may still be living in an unsafe environment.

Many people in the communities spoke about the need for support groups. A support group is basically a group of peers who share the same experience or the same problem. Support groups can be organized on a variety of models, but essentially are small groups that meet on a regular basis to offer mutual support and encouragement. Many people are familiar with the 12 step groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Alanon, and Alateen. Peer models can be useful to ongoing support, stabilization and healing for both victims and offenders.

Given the large numbers of victims, survivors and offenders this is a productive avenue to pursue. The role of government to facilitate the development of support groups is one option among many.

It is not a matter of either treatment or prevention - we recognize that **treatment is prevention**. Involvement in all three levels of prevention is necessary to sustain successful change. We need to join forces to ensure efficient use of resources. The consumer is a key participant to this.

If we are serious about breaking the cycle of violence in families, then intervention and treatment are essential components in any prevention strategy.

Recommendation 10

The committee recommends that government support those affected by family violence and recognize that support services are the foundation of prevention strategies by:

- continuing to financially support those agencies which provide services to those affected by family violence;
- assisting communities in the development of shelter options, especially in rural areas;
- facilitating the development of support groups on a decentralized basis.

I) Populations at Risk;

In the late '70's and early '80's it was women who brought attention to the staggering reality of wife battering. The words used at that time had the effect of shocking us. There continued to be denial and discussion tended to centre on "what did she do to deserve it?" and "why doesn't she leave?" What followed was an explosion of learning on the issue. A profusion of books, articles and research provide a substantive body of knowledge that many women are abused on a regular basis by their male partners in every strata of society.

The growing attention to wife battering paved the way to bring out other issues which had previously been silenced or minimized. Sexual assault, incest, pornography all became compelling issues of the '80's. People from all sectors were becoming increasingly dissatisfied with the status quo.

Other forms of abuse in the family were also coming to light. The reality of child battering had been exposed in the early '70's and by the '80's the tragedy of child sexual abuse was finally out of the closet. Children could be at risk with parents, clergy, daycares, schools or in fact, in any sphere of community life. Many in the community wondered if there was any safe place for women and children.

Communities and government must address the very prominent problem of violence against women. We must also attend to others who are affected by violence in relationships.

It is perhaps easier for most people to understand why children and youth are vulnerable - they are small, powerless and dependent on adults for their care, nurturance and survival. As addressed in an earlier section, their needs and their safety are of paramount importance to the community.

It is harder for us to hear about date rape and dating violence, but it is part of the spectrum of violence in the Island community. We heard relief from teenagers that it was finally being named. More young people are able to disclose and seek help from abuse at the hands of peers, caregivers and authority figures. The silence has been broken - at least for some.

"It's just a beginning - now the door has opened - don't let it close."

Over the last few years, we have also begun to learn about abuse of the elderly, the physically frail and people with disabilities. On the Island, we have a large population of seniors and they remain largely unnoticed in terms of their vulnerability to assault, abuse, neglect and financial exploitation.

As Aboriginal people have become more vocal we have learned of their particular concerns with family violence based on cultural oppression over generations.

New immigrants may have some specific issues to deal with for example language barriers, lack of natural support systems, a fear of the police etc. We must be sensitive and respectful of these differences and attend to this dimension.

Some victims are male. They could be victims of spousal assault, sexual abuse, elder abuse, etc. These victims who may have some special difficulties in disclosing because they are men. Some people told us that this was an area we could expect to hear more about in the future.

Family violence is a complex problem with special circumstances for various populations. " Family violence" has become a convenient term and this all inclusive term has itself become the target of some debate, yet it has been generally adopted. However,there are some who believe that it is a term that disguises the fact that in spousal assault and sexual assault, the majority of perpetrators are male and the majority of victims are female.

We still do not know the full dimensions of the problem and more information is needed. Robert Nemmi, in "Colonization and the Colonized" said that "those who are likely to be abused are those who are not taken seriously".

In the '90's -following the Montreal massacre, cuts in women's programs, increasing incidents of wife battering, rapes and homicides, there is a growing concern that the issue of violence against women will somehow become invisible in this broader definition. Violence against women is expressed in many ways that are not limited to the family - pornography, sexual assaults by strangers and sexual harassment.

Also, children are without a bill of rights. There is a lack of awareness of the safety and security needs of seniors or their caregivers. Natives are struggling for basic recognition and pathways to healing. Those with disabilities experience limited access and diminished respect.

These are some examples of societal problems that must be addressed. Their relationships to violence within families and communities must be explored and similarities and differences identified.

It is currently recognized that some groups are more at risk of abuse or neglect than others. Awareness of their vulnerabilities must be reflected in both service and prevention strategies.

Recommendation 11

The committee recommends that the specific needs of "at risk" populations be addressed when designing policy and developing programs on prevention by:

- acknowledging and respecting the differences within the spectrum of family violence (e.g. violence against women, elder abuse, sexual abuse, etc.);

- acknowledging and respecting the needs and cultural context of minority populations (e.g. Aboriginal people, new immigrants, etc.).

9. Need for a Holistic Approach;

All these points lead us to the conclusion that there is a need for a holistic approach to family violence. The fact there are different perspectives can be viewed as the strength of a community rather than a problem. To borrow a term from ecology **"in diversity is abundance"** - in other words, it is the combined efforts of individuals and organizations focusing on various aspects of the issue, yet working together, that can lead to prevention.

A holistic approach to family violence is needed if prevention strategies are to be successful. There will be no one magic answer - but rather a number of strategies working simultaneously.

We found a spectrum of experiences, philosophies and attitudes. Family violence can appear to be a different problem depending upon your perspective. If you believe that the status of women is the central issue then you may not focus on male victims. If you come from a spiritual tradition then you may wonder about the role of forgiveness and healing in prevention. If you are a victim your primary concern may be physical safety for yourself and your dependents. The CCCFVP believes all these dimensions and others as well, have validity and the community must begin to see the whole picture if prevention strategies are to be successful.

One aspect that has not received a great deal of attention is that of spirituality and its place in the analysis and prevention of family violence.

The word "spirituality" conjures up powerful images and messages. For some spirituality is about God, for others it is about intuition or creativity. For many it means organized religion with either positive or negative connotations. Some feel they have been oppressed by organized religion either as a direct victim or as a victim of a system that seemed unresponsive to the needs of people in pain, whether they be victims, offenders or family members. For others, their particular faith is a source of support, strength and inspiration in times of hardship and in their struggle for social justice and peace.

Representatives from the Native community spoke on the spiritual dimension of healing. As people have physical, mental and emotional needs, so do they have spiritual needs especially when they have been wounded by violence.

This is a necessary ingredient of healing, whether this is accessed through organized religion, through self-help groups or through a firm belief in the inherent value of each individual as part of creation. This is an area where there has been almost no dialogue and one that needs to be approached carefully and respectfully.

Government and community together must address the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health of individuals. We must be prepared to acknowledge the economic, social, political and cultural context of family violence.

Personal health and economic health are interrelated and interdependent, and we must make a commitment to balance economic development and health issues in the future.

10.CONCLUSION

Progress towards prevention will continue to depend on on-going dialogue, awareness and changes in attitudes as well as concerted and cooperative action on the part of all sectors of society.

Dialogue is not always easy but this one-year process has demonstrated it can be done provided there is enough care and attention given to creating a safe forum in which people can explore their differences.

If the next steps are to be effective then the process has to be one that allows for differences and one that develops consensus.

The starting point is to explore the roots of violence in our society. Many believe that in a society where some people are valued more than others, violence and oppression are inevitable. Strategies for prevention will be constructed on the analysis of the problems and there are various - and in some cases - competing views.

We must examine our institutions and work on issues that relate to equality - economically, politically, socially - as part of the solution.

There is still a great stigma attached to being a victim of family violence. We heard time and time again that some people avoided the consultations because if you were seen there, your neighbours might think that you had problems. This is a tragic state of affairs. One dictionary definition of the word "stigma" is "a distinguishing mark of social disgrace". This kind of thinking must be combatted. The sad reality is that **we are all affected by family violence** and we all have the potential of becoming victims and offenders.

Every victim of abuse deserves help and support and healing. There is a broadening of the definition of "victim". Although most would agree that the majority of victims are women and children, the community also spoke about men as victims, the elderly as victims and parents, teachers and other caregivers as the targets of violence from people dependent upon them.

Contributing to this stigma are some of our myths around family violence. These myths contribute to the feeling of isolation and stigma when people experience problems in the family.

There is concern that without a real understanding of the power dynamics and the links of violence to a lack of equity, we may fall into the error of trying to support family structures at the cost of individual victims. This has been most clearly articulated by members of the women's movement who are concerned that by exclusively reinforcing traditional roles in the nuclear family we may overlook women as victims of assault and abuse.

A challenge to our collective myths around "family" is to look at how these myths have enabled us - at great cost - to keep a veil of silence over the reality of violence in the family. These myths clash with our inner knowledge and as we tentatively share our perceptions, hopes and fears with others, we find that we are not alone.

Often individuals and families believe every family should be perfect and it is not okay to ask for help. Hence people get into serious difficulties in their relationships, particularly in parenting, before they reach out. Added to this is the common myth that some "expert" has the answers and rather than looking inside ourselves, we let others define our solutions.

There are no perfect families - only a spectrum of human experiences. We need to build on our strengths as individuals, families and communities. The false idea that somehow we should know the right way of doing things and that we cannot ask for what we need, keeps us in our pain and isolation.

Some forms of family violence are difficult to name and some forms are not even recognized. People showed some measure of comfort with discussing wife assault or child abuse but sexual abuse was rarely discussed openly nor was elder abuse. Another form of violence notable by its virtual absence from the discussion is that of institutional violence. It was mentioned occasionally but is still an area that is cloaked in silence. We know all these behaviors do occur on Prince Edward Island, yet there is a taboo on naming some forms of violence. Some forms of violence are just not as visible, for example, the financial exploitation of seniors or the sexual molestation of persons with disabilities. The answer is education on both counts - a form of education that is sensitive and yet challenges denial.

Part of the same dynamic is the fact that people still think of violence primarily as physical assault and find it hard to relate other forms such as emotional and financial abuse.

Because the silence has only recently been broken on family violence, any dialogue at all raises the awareness of the pervasiveness of violence as many individuals in our communities are either victims, survivors or offenders. Almost everyone has a story about violence in their family or community.

At the same time the services that have developed in response to the problem are still relatively new and many are under-resourced. One dilemma facing us is this: is it responsible to raise awareness when not enough services are in place yet how will the situation change and eventually the need be reduced unless we openly talk about it and discover the real size of the problem? The intergenerational aspect also means if there are few prevention efforts there will be an almost certain mushrooming effect as the ripples of violence reverberate down the generations.

A major practical dilemma is how to conduct prevention programs in a time of diminishing resources. Add to this the necessity of avoiding competition between groups for the limited resources because this will result in increased polarization and will not help us achieve progress towards violence free communities. Government has a responsibility to use its resources wisely to assist communities, families and individuals to help themselves rather than doing it for them. This calls for a new kind of leadership and vision on the part of government in relationship to family violence.

A search for resources to enhance community prevention strategies is required. Some avenues include the Federal Initiative on Family Violence, private foundations, corporations, community organizations (e.g. Independent Order of Foresters) and others.

Prevention efforts require a sensitivity to those individuals and families who have been and are currently affected by family violence. Issues around safety, both in the sense of physical safety as well as providing a measure of psychological safety are critical.

The prevention of family violence is intrinsically linked to other major social issues - health-care, education, economic well being, troubled youth, alcohol and drug abuse and so on.

A community development approach is the most productive route to follow. It includes building on existing resources and capitalizing on current prevention programs and sharing the responsibilities with all involved.

As Islanders continue to work together towards healthier, safer communities for all, there is an obligation to sustain the community's energy and willingness to work in partnership with government, interest groups and support agencies.

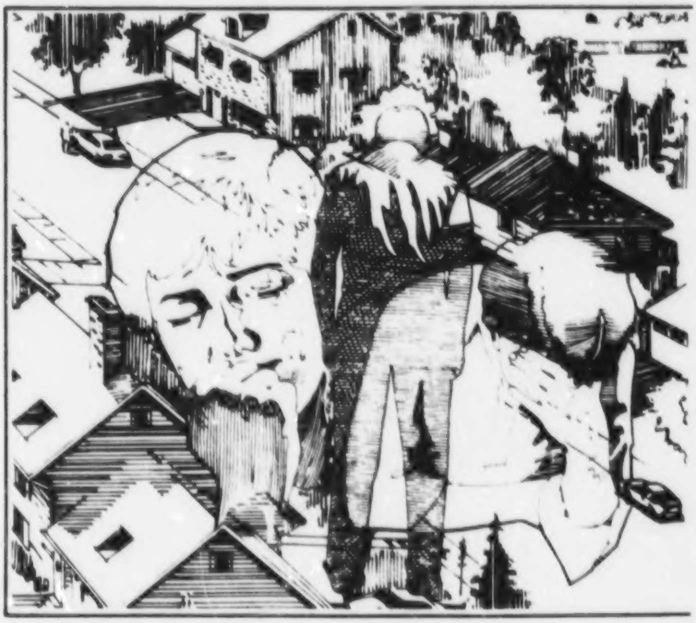
"This was the best thing government has ever done."

"I hope the discussion won't stop here but grow."

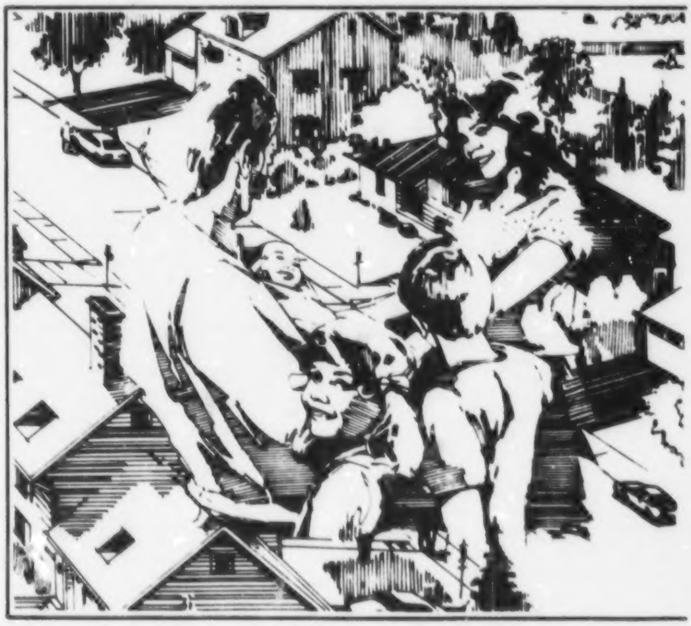
Volume

2

Partners for Prevention



Islanders Talk About Family Violence



VOLUME II

SEPT. 91

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

The Division of Home Care and Support
Department of Health and Social Services
P O Box 2000
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
CIA 7N8
Telephone: (902) 368-4210

Report

of

the Community Consultation Committee

on

Family Violence Prevention

to

The Honourable Wayne D. Cheverie, Q.C.

Minister of Health and Social Services

Volume II

PARTNERS FOR PREVENTION

ISLANDERS TALK ABOUT FAMILY VIOLENCE

Volume II

September 1991

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PARTNERS FOR PREVENTION

ISLANDERS TALK ABOUT FAMILY VIOLENCE

Volume I available from: Home Care and Support
P.O. Box 2000
Charlottetown, PEI
C1A 7N8

Telephone: 368-4210

Section 1

Specific Prevention Strategies

SECTION I

The following issues regarding prevention of family violence were generated by participants in small groups during the consultations. The suggestions and comments are categorized under three headings: primary prevention, including community education and health promotion initiatives aimed at raising awareness of the issue and promoting constructive public attitudes; secondary prevention, including preventive intervention services for "at risk" populations , and tertiary prevention, including crisis intervention and treatment services.

Items are coded as to consultation site in the following manner: C - Charlottetown, S - Souris, M - Montague, EP - East Prince (Summerside) WP - West Prince (O'Leary), E - Evangeline. As much as possible, duplication has been avoided and comments that relate to the responsibilities of individuals are not included. Items are not presented in any order of significance. The full set of notes from each consultation is available upon request.

PRIMARY PREVENTION

- Encourage development of self-help and peer support groups in community education. (WP,M,E,C,S,EP)
- Support and encourage community awareness meetings such as the Consultation at the local level. (M.WP,E,C,EP)
- Provision of Life Skills Programs in the school system at all levels. (M,WP,E,C,EP,S)
- Increased community education on parenting. (M,WP,E,C,S,EP)
- Community education initiatives should target gender inequality. (M,WP,C,S)
- Encourage and support community action strategies which promote non-violence in sports and media. (M,WP,E,C,S,EP)
- De-emphasize competition in public education systems. (M,C,S)
- Challenge the theme of male dominance in socialization process. (M,WP,C,S,EP)
- Community education supporting healthy family functioning and promoting extended family and community interaction. (S,M,WP,C,EP)
- Improved education on family violence for law enforcement officials. (M,EP)
- Increase community legal education. (M,WP,E,C)
- Increase advocacy by the medical community and encourage professional leadership. (M)

- Introduce parenting education by hospitals and maternity care. (M)
- Increase church involvement in this issue. (M,WP,C,S,EP)
- Increase involvement of youth groups. (M,WP,C,S,EP)
- Provision of literature in public buildings. (M,S,EP)
- Advertising at community events. (M)
- Reduce stigma associated with resources through naming of services and non-threatening community education messages. (WP,E,C,S,EP)
- Declaration of "Violence Free Zones". (WP,M,C,EP)
- Increase advertising of services and resources and how to use them. (M,WP,E,S,EP)
- Target stress of adult caregivers in community education. (WP,S,C)
- Increase linkage of violence and substance abuse issues. (WP,E,S,EP)
- Work through existing structures in the community. (M,WP,E,C)
- All forms of abuse must be addressed. (M.WP.E.S.EP)
- Ensure bilingual services. (E,C)
- Emphasize each individual's responsibility to comfort and prevent abuse. (M,WP,E,C,S,EP)
- Emphasize self-esteem as a key issue in education of youth. (M,E,C)

- Programming should emphasize non-violent conflict resolution in early childhood education. (M,WP,E,C,S)
- National Abuse Awareness Day. (E,C)
- Promote government and corporate employment policies which support family life such as special leave and family life oriented staff seminars. (C)
- Use plain accessible language for all ages in community and media education initiatives. (E,C,S,EP)
- Government initiatives must empower community resources rather than attempt to impose structures or solutions. (M,WP,E,C,EP)
- Reduce stigma associated with non-conventional families by public institutions. (M,C,S)
- Emphasize methods of identifying signs of family violence in community education. (M,WP,C,EP)
- Encourage messages on product packaging. (WP,C)

SECONDARY PREVENTION

- Address the public image of Department of Social Services to clarify its mandate and reduce community apprehension. (C,WP,M,S,E,EP)

- Support the establishment of support groups in schools, communities and public institutions. (M,WP,E,C,S,EP)

- Establish support services for respite for single parents and adult caregivers. (WP,M,C)

- Provide Family Centers for Drop-ins, Resource materials, rooms for meetings. (WP,M,E)

- Establish Hot-Lines for information and support. (WP,M,E)

- One central number for all prevention and support services. (WP,M)

- Stronger measures to ensure confidentiality. (WP,M,E)

- Ensure preventative services for "at risk" populations such as children in violent families to reduce intergenerational transmission of violence. (WP,M,E,S)

- More support groups for parents of teen substance abusers. (WP,M)

- Ensure that treatment programs address all family members. (WP,M,C)

- Establish positions for coordinators to promote community action on family violence. (WP,C)

- Increase training for teachers, police, medical professionals, clergy, social workers, in identification and intervention. (WP,M,E)

- Establish safety mechanisms for access to services for victims (i.e. telephone calls which don't appear on bills). (WP,E)

- Adapt 12-step self-help model to family violence. (C,S,WP)

- Target prevention programs to high risk groups, i.e. young parents, disabled, elderly, previous victims. (C,M,S)

- Promote establishment of Family Watch to identify abusive situations. (C)

- Publish more names of perpetrators in media. (C)

- Prevention programs for new immigrants. (C)

- Establish community action groups, i.e. Raging Grannies, Parents Against Bullies, Take Back the Night, etc. (C)

- Establish more support services for men dealing with stress and power. (C,EP)

- Improve court system services to better serve victim, i.e. victim services; faster response; avoid re-victimization. (C,EP,M)

- Financial assistance must be readily accessible to victims. (EP)

TERTIARY PREVENTION

- Shelter and treatment must go hand in hand. (EP,C,E)
- Safe housing and shelter must be provided on the most possible localized level to all communities. (EP,WP,E,C,S,M)
- More trained counselors are necessary. (EP,S,C,M)
- Shelter is the first priority in prevention. (EP,WP,C,M)
- Intervention should emphasize treatment rather than punishment. (WP)
- Intervention with offenders should include treatment and punishment. (EP,C,WP)
- Punishment for offenders should be more severe. (C,WP)
- Treatment for offender must be provided in more communities. (EP,C,WP,E)
- Present resources are inadequate to effectively address family violence. (EP,S,C,E)
- Offenders must be charged. (C,EP)
- Due to nature of family violence spiritual issues should be addressed in intervention. (EP)
- Police need to better enforce the laws we have, i.e. laying charges. (S,C,M)
- Treatment should be available for the abused, the abuser and family members. (C,E,EP,M)
- Community support groups should be used with treatment programs. (WP,C)

- Criminal justice intervention in appropriate to arrange treatment. (C,WP,M)

- Clergy, social workers, police, criminal justice officials, educators, health care professionals, volunteers and private citizens all have a role in intervention. (EP,WP,C,M)

- Availability of a full time crisis worker in rural areas. (M)

- Accessibility and response time for crisis and counselling services are inadequate. (EP,WP,E,M,S)

- More shelter options for victims are needed. (C,M,EP,WP,E,S)

- More services for victims are needed in rural areas. (C,M,S,E,EP,WP)

Section 2

"Dialogue"

FAMILY VIOLENCE INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Issue #1, January, 1991

DIALOGUE

> "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED

"How can we prevent family violence, as individuals, as families, as a community?" That will be the key question examined in a number of Island communities over the next few months. This is the first step in a long-term process to develop a community based strategy on the complex problem of family violence .

The Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention has been established by Policy Board to guide this process. The committee acts as a steering committee for the consultation process and has members from both government and community agencies.

Beginning in November 1990, there will be a number of opportunities across the Island for public dialogue and consultation. The discussion paper, "The Prevention of Family Violence - A Community Response," will provide a framework for the consultations.

In August 1991, a final report will be submitted to Cabinet by the Committee with recommendations based on the community input during the consultations.

SUMMERSIDE CONSULTATION

The next consultation will take place in Summerside on Jan. 30th, 1991 in the auditorum of Three Oaks High School at 7 pm. Storm date is Jan. 31st.

The CCCFVP is co-sponsoring this consultation with the East Prince Committee on Family Violence and the Summerside Citizen's Crime Prevention Committee.

PREMIER ISSUE

This is the first issue of **DIALOGUE**, the Family Violence Information Exchange. The Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention hopes to provide a forum for the exchange of information on the issues of family violence in Prince Edward Island communities.

The initial mailing of **DIALOGUE** will be widespread. **However, if you want to continue to receive the newsletter, you must call Donna Young at 368-4210 and tell us you want to stay on the mailing list.**

WESTISLE CONSULTATION SUCCESSFUL

The Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention had its first opportunity to try out a dynamic process of discussions with the West Prince community regarding prevention of family violence on November 20th at Westisle School. More than 50 people turned out to talk about family violence and seek ways to prevent it.

The novel process allowed committee and community members to structure and conduct a dialogue in small groups with the participants for the evening. The input by a variety of individuals has been extremely helpful and challenging for the members of the committee.

A valuable component of the consultation, which is also a step on the road of prevention, was the opportunitiy to sit and talk to their neighbours about what can be done in their own community to help prevent family violence.

This initial consultation has encouraged the committee by indicating the effectiveness of community dialogue.

(902) 368-4583 or FAX 368-4455

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

TRANSITION HOUSE ASSOCIATION is planning a workshop on April 12-13, 1991 with Linda MacLeod from Ottawa. The Friday sessions will be for professionals. The Saturday workshop will be open to the general public. More information and a contact name and number to follow shortly.

TRANSITION HOUSE ASSOCIATION is in the process of building a wheelchair accessible unit at Anderson House to provide room for one woman and two children. We hope to have the unit completed in February 1991 and will be seeking support from the community to assist with the purchase of special furnishings for this unit.

For more information, contact Patti Seres at 368-7337.

A SUPPORT GROUP has started at the Western Hospital in Alberton for women with abusive partners. The group meets Mondays from 7 - 9 in the evening.

For more information, contact Valerie Strang at 859-2400.

The **PEI RAPE & SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS CENTRE** has a variety of publications relating to all aspects of incest, child sexual abuse, rape & sexual assault. Volunteers and staff are also available for public speaking engagements.

For more information, phone 566-1864.

TURNING POINT GROUP contines to provide group counselling services for men who use violent and controlling behaviour against their female partners. The focus is on challenging and helping men to take responsibility for their violent behaviour as well as teaching men to deal with anger and other emotions in a constructive manner.

For more information, contact Larry McKnight at 892-2441.

RESOURCES AND EVENTS

ELDER ABUSE & CRIME, First National Conference, Jan 23-25, 1991, Toronto,

For more information, phone (416)493-8062.

THE DYNAMICS OF WIFE BATTERING, a video production, available from Public Legal Education Society of NS.

For more information, phone (902) 423-7154.

Jill Lightwood is the Coordinator and resource person for the Community Consultation Committee and can be reached at 368-4583 for more information on the process and the consultations.

If you have information to share or events you want to publicize, this is an excellent opportunity. You can get information to us by phone, by FAX or by mail.

Telephone (902) 368-4583 or FAX 368-4455

Community Consultation Committee on FamilyViolence Prevention

P.O. Box 2000, Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7N8

DIALOGUE, **Family Violence Information Exchange,** is published monthly by the Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention as a clearinghouse for information and community resource about family violence. Your ideas, contributions and support are encouraged. We will not be soliciting submissions, the **SUCCESS** is up to **YOU.**

DEADLINE for submisssion is the 20th of each month.

If you want to remain on the mailing list, please phone Donna Young at 368-4210 and let us know.

Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention
P.O. Box 2000, Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7N8

address label

Issue #2, February, 1991 FAMILY VIOLENCE INFORMATION EXCHANGE

DIALOGUE

"If there is righteousness in the heart there will be beauty in the character. If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home. If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation. If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world." Chinese proverb.

EAST PRINCE CONSULTATION

Despite the stormy weather, the second in a series of consultations provided an opportunity for dynamic group of East Prince residents to share their ideas and concerns about the prevention of family violence. Approximately 50 people braved the roads and came together at Three Oaks High School on Jan 30, 1991.

This consultation for Summerside and East Prince was co-sponsored by the East Prince Committee on Family Violence, the Summerside Citizen's Crime Prevention Committee and the Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention. Members of these committees attended the Consultation and informed the participants of their activities. Their active involvement was an important factor in the success of the evening.

The consultation process again used small groups to enable participants to actively discuss their ideas on the needs of their communities regarding awareness and the prevention of family violence.

The interest shown by the participants in further action in their communities was evident and the CCCFVP is encouraging local residents to continue discussing the issues and to develop effective prevention strategies.

This challenging process of community consultation will continue across the Island involving the participation and cooperation of local groups and individuals.

The widespread participation and involvement of communities, groups, and individuals is vital to the success of the consultation process. If you want to become involved, please contact the Co-ordinator, Jill Lightwood at 368-4583.

This NEWSLETTER welcomes your submission, events notices, etc.

CONSULTATION WITH ORGANIZATIONS PLANNED

Over the next three months, the CCCFVP plans to meet with as many community organizations and groups as possible. The questions, thoughts and ideas about prevention of community organizations and their members will be very helpful. If your organization has presented briefs on violence prevention or is involved in prevention programs, the committee is interested in discussing these with you.

Curbing violence in families and communities requires the vision, commitment and combined energies of individuals and social institutions to which we all belong or participate in. No one group, government or interested individual alone can eliminate violence in the family. Working together, with the shared goal of reducing violence in our society, is the critical first step in the process.

For more information, please call Jill Lightwood at 368-4583.

RESOURCES AND EVENTS

Women and Mental Health: WOMEN IN A VIOLENT SOCIETY. Conference. May 9-12, 1991, Banff, Alberta.

For more information, phone (403)488-9493

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE TREATMENT workshop. March 19-22, 1991, Halifax.

COUNSELLING ADULT SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE. April 8-11, 1991, Halifax

For more information, phone 1-494-3760

QUOTE NOTE We need suitable quotes for the newsletter. Send in your favourite!!

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

SPOUSAL SUPPORT SERVICE is a free and confidential service offering emotional support and information to women in East Prince who have abusive partners. The service is a joint project of the East Prince Committee on Family Violence and the Transition House Association of PEI. Staff at the service are also available to speak to local groups about family Violence and the services available to families in the East Prince area.

For more information or to arrange a speaker, please contact Brenda Picard at 436-0517.

The **EAST PRINCE COMMITTEE on FAMILY VIOLENCE** meets on a monthly basis to determine and respond to the needs of the community regarding family violence. The aims of the committee include providing public education, promoting a co-ordinated approach to family violence and raising awareness among the professionals of the needs and resources surrounding these issues. The committee is concerned about all issues of family violence and continues to lobby for a shelter for women of East Prince who have abusive partners.

If you would like more information about the Committee, please contact Bert VanCook, Chairperson at 436-2557 or Brenda Picard at 436-0517.

The **PEI TRANSITION HOUSE ASSOCIATION** is holding two workshops this spring with Linda MacLeod.

On Friday, April 12th, there will be a Professional Development Workshop "Stopping Family Violence: Professional's Connect".

On Saturday, April 13th, there will be an opportunity for members of the broader Island community to work on the issue, "Family Violence: How Do We Care?"

For more information, phone 368-7337

The **PEI RAPE & SEXUAL ASSUALT CRISIS CENTRE** will be conducting student awareness workshops this spring for grades 7, 8, & 9 in Island schools.

For more information call Shirley Limbert at 675-4808 or 566-1864.

The toll-free CRISIS LINE of the Rape & Sexual Assault Centre is 1-566-8999.

FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES is a cooperative effort of the West Prince Interagency Committee on Family Violence and the Transition House Association and offers services for women and children victimized by family violence.

Coordinator Valerie Strang provides emotional support for women by listening and respecting the decisions of the women while presenting options that are available to women living in turmoil. Other services are individual and group support, information on wife assault, legal services, crisis information, and educational services.

For more information, contact Valerie Strang at 859-2400.

The first consultation was held in West Prince and co-sponsored by the West Prince Interagency Committee on Family Violence and Valerie Strang provided considerable assistance in organizing the event.

DIALOGUE, **Family Violence Information Exchange,** is published monthly by the Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention as a clearinghouse for information and community resources about family violence. Your ideas, contributions and support are encouraged.

DEADLINE for submisssion is the 20th of each month.

(902)368-4583 or FAX 368-4455

Issue #3, March, 1991 FAMILY VIOLENCE INFORMATION EXCHANGE

DIALOGUE

"Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another.... 'What! you too? I thought I was the only one'" C.S. Lewis

Family Violence Initiative Announced

On Feb 20, 1991. the federal government announced an $136 million committment to eliminate family violence. The Honourable Perrin Beatty, Minister of National Health and Welfare, acknowledged that no law or program passed by government can make the problem disappear. The government can, however, provide leadership and help mobilize the efforts of countless individuals, agencies, and organizations which can make a difference.

The federal strategy will involve six key elements to address these goals: increasing public awareness about family violence and changing attitudes; strengthening the federal legal framework; providing prevention, protection and treatment services to Indians on reserve; strengthening family violence intervention and treatment services, especially for high risk populations; increasing the availability of housing for victims; and, enhancing national information exchange and coordination.

These programs will be undertaken in partnership with other levels of government, non-governmental organizations, professional associations, community groups and the private sector. Several federal government departments are involved: National Health and Welfare, Secretary of State, Indian and Northern Affairs, Justice, Solicitor General and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The Minister responsible for the Status of Women and the Minister of State for Seniors will be working closely with the funding departments.

Each department has it own set of priorities and Health and Welfare Canada, as the lead federal agency on family violence, is responsible for ensuring a coordinated and effective federal response to family violence.

For more information about the federal initiative on family violence, contact:

Family Violence Prevention Division
Social Services Programs Branch
Health and Welfare Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B5 TEL 1-800-267-1291 or FAX 1-613-957-4247

Nurses committee formed

The Association of Nurses of PEI have recently formed a committee on family violence. The committee is composed of five members with the mandate to develop strategies and an action plan to advocate for and promote increased services, rehabilitative counselling, public education programs, and for the members of the association to become more aware of this issue.

This committee will be meeting monthly to discuss implementing the action plan.

For more information, contact Marie Walsh, Public Health Nurse, Dept of Health & Social Services.

Vis-a-Vis on tape

The Canadian Council on Social Development has an excellent publication, Vis-a-Vis, A National Newsletter on Family Violence, published quarterly and free of charge. This publication is now available of audiocassette in both English and French. For a tape or further invormation, please contact:

Family Violence Program
Canadian Council on Social Development
55 Parkdale Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4G1
TEL (613) 728-1865 FAX (613) 728-9387

QUOTE NOTE We need suitable quotes for the newsletter. Send in your favourite!!

RESOURCES AND EVENTS

The **PEI TRANSITION HOUSE ASSOCIATION** is holding two workshops this spring with Linda MacLeod.

On Friday, April 12th, there will be a Professional Development Workshop

"Stopping Family Violence: Professional's Connect".

On Saturday, April 13th, there will be an opportunity for members of the broader Island community to work on the issue,

"Family Violence: How Do We Care?"

For more information, phone 368-7337 or Patti Seres at 894-3354.

A workshop is planned for Wednesday, March 27, 1991 from 7 pm - 9 pm at the Farm Centre on University Avenue in Charlottetown.

Family Violence-

Whose responsibility is it?

The workshop is sponsored by the **LENNOX ISLAND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAM** and the **WOMEN'S NETWORK.** Free admission and a lunch will be served.

For more information, contact Eileen Conway Martin at 831-2711

Ross Dawson of the Maritime School of Social Work will conduct a workshop on:

Recovery: A Treatment Approach of Helping the Sexually Abused Child

on Friday, March 22, 1991 in Charlottetown at the CP Prince Edward from 9 am to 4:30 pm.

For more information:

TEL(902)494-3760 or FAX (902) 494-6709

RESOURCES AND EVENTS

The **PEI RAPE & SEXUAL ASSUALT CRISIS CENTRE** will be conducting student awareness workshops this spring for grades 7, 8, & 9 in Island schools.

For more information call Shirley Limbert at 675-4808 or 566-1864.

The toll-free CRISIS LINE of the Rape & Sexual Assualt Centre is 1-566-8999.

Women and Mental Health Conference, May 9-12, 1991, Banff, Alberta.

Women in a Violent Society

For more information TEL(403)488-9493

A workshop with Sandra Butler of the Maritime School of Social Work is planned for April 8 - 9 in Halifax and April 10 -11 in Fredericton on:

Working With Adult Survivors of Sexual Abuse

For more information:

TEL(902)494-3760 or FAX (902) 494-6709

DIALOGUE, **Family Violence Information Exchange,** is published monthly by the Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention as a clearinghouse for information and community resources about family violence. Your ideas, contributions and support are encouraged. **We rely on you to contact us if you have information to be included.**

TEL (902)368-4583 or FAX (902) 368-4455
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS
20TH OF EACH MONTH

ISSUE #4 - APRIL, 1991 FAMILY VIOLENCE INFORMATION EXCHANGE

DIALOGUE

"We must begin to change ourselves before we can change the world."
Petra Kelly, West German politician and activist.

KING'S COUNTY CONSULTATIONS

"Let's learn and talk about the prevention of family violence."

Two Community Consultations on Family Violence Prevention will be taking place in Kings Country this month, one in Montague and the other in Souris. Members of the CCCFVP have been meeting with interested people in each of these communities to help in the planning for the consultations. Both groups have chosen "Let's learn and talk about the prevention of family violence" as the theme for their consultations.

MONTAGUE

Tuesday, April 23rd

Montague Regional High School

7:00 pm -9:30 pm.

This consultation is co-sponsored by the Southern Kings and Queens Community Advisory Board. Refreshments will be available. The location is wheelchair accessible.

A very representative planning committee has been working since early in March preparing for the event and is looking forward to a good turnout for the consultation. The planning committee has decided to invited members of the community to discuss the following questions:

1- What is the first thing you think of when you hear the term family violence?

2- What can we do to prevent family violence as individuals, as families and as a community?

3- What resources does this community require to support individual needs?

For more information on the consultation in Montague, contact Brenda Creighton at 838-4129 or Jill Lightwood at 368- 4583.

SOURIS

Thursday, April 25th

7:30pm - 9:00pm

Souris Hospital, lower level.

This consultation is co-sponsored by the local area churches. Refreshments will be available and the meeting location is wheelchair accessible.

The planning committee has been meeting since March working on the consultation. Information and presentations about the consultations have been made to local community groups. The representatives of the church community are also making the event known and encouraging participation by the members of their congregations.

As in Montague, the theme for the evening is "Let's learn and talk about family violence prevention". The planning committee is encouraging everyone to come and bring a friend for a very interesting evening of dialogue and discussion.

For more information on the consultation in Souris, contact Pauline Peters at 687-3370 or Jill Lightwood at 368-4583.

EVANGALINE CONSULTATION

A planning committee is working on the consultation in the Evangaline area.

A date has been set for May 29th in the evening. More details will be available in a later issue of Dialogue.

For more information on the Evangaline consultation, contact Jennita Benard at 436-2169 or Jill Lightwood at 368-4583.

ELDER ABUSE AND CRIME

The issue of Elder mistreatment first came to the fore in Canada in the early 1980's; the fact the first national conference in January attracted three hundred people from each province and territory speaks to the fact that this is now recognized as a serious issue in Canada.

The three days were loaded with information: examination of recent research; exploration of legal and ethical issues in regards to mental competency, power of attorney, restraints; long term care; present and future responses to fear of crime; neglect and abuse in formal and informal care giving situations; adult protection, etc.

PEI's Act regarding the protection of adults was presented as being one of the better models in Canada in terms of balancing the rights of the individual versus the need for state intervention and assistance. We recognize though that there are many gaps in service here and we need to work together in the future, especially in the area of prevention and coordination of service delivery.

This conference widened our perspective on the complexity of this issue and the need for increased understanding within all systems of the needs of victimized older adults. The opportunity to meet and discuss these concerns with some of the leading authorities in Canada was invaluable. It was a beginning step in looking at a challenging problem.

Les Zielinski, Dept. of Justice
Mary MacKenzie, Home Care & Support,

QUOTE NOTE:

Please keep sending in your favourite quotes for the newsletter. We are getting some great ones. Maybe we will publish a special issue of Diagogue just for quotes.

INTEREST GROUP CONSULTATIONS

The CCCFVP has received a positive response to its invitation for dialogue with groups and organizations across the Island who are interested in the prevention of family violence. Dialogue has already been held with representatives of organizations of church women, natives, youth, health, education, and alcohol counselling.

Groups have arranged input to our process by a number of means. Representatives of the CCCFVP have attended regular or special meetings of the organization. Other groups have sent representatives to meet with the full CCCFVP at a prearranged meeting. There has also been an indication that some groups would like to give us their input by way of written comments.

If your organization is interested in having input into the consultation process, please contact Jill Lightwood at 368-4583 to discuss arrangements that would meet the needs of your organization. We look forward to your thoughts and ideas.

DIALOGUE, Family Violence Information Exchange, is published monthly by the Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention as a clearinghouse for information and community resources about family violence.

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Telephone (902) 368-4583 or FAX 368-4455

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION 20th OF EACH MONTH.

ISSUE #5 - MAY, 1991

FAMILY VIOLENCE INFORMATION EXCHANGE

DIALOGUE

"Lust for power is rooted in weakness, not strength. When we understand and accept this, there will be no violence." Unknown.

JUNE 25, 1991 7 - 10 PM

CHARLOTTETOWN CONSULTATION

"FAMILY VIOLENCE: HOW CAN WE PREVENT IT?" is the theme chosen by the planning committee for the consultation which will take place on Tuesday, June 25th from 7 - 10 pm at Holland College, Charlottetown Centre gymnasium, entrance 140 Weymouth Street, wheelchair access via Kent Street entrance.

This public discussion is co-sponsored by the following groups: Charlottetown Christian Council, Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention, Community Legal Information Association, Interagency Committee on Family Violence, PEI Multicultural Council.

The Charlottetown Consultation is the last in a series of consultations in various locations across the Island.

For more information, contact Jill Lightwood at 368-4583 or Ann Sherman at 892-0853.

EVANGALINE CONSULTATION

This consultation was held on Wednesday, May 29 at the Centre d'Education Evangaline.

The planning committee chose **"LET'S TALK - PARLONS-EN"** as the theme for this bilingual consultation which was co-sponsored by Egmont Bay, Wellington, Mont Carmel Parish Councils, Jeunesse Acadienne and the Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention.

Approximately 50 people attended the consultation, including a significant number of yourg people. Many of the same issues and concerns emerged from this consultation.

DIALOGUE will feature in a future issue an overview of the common issues and concerns that have emerged from the consultations.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-FREE ZONE

A housing co-op near Toronto is showing how solidarity and support for victims can stop family violence by declaring their co-op a "domestic violence-free zone".

The seeds of the new policy were planted one night in 1989 when residents of the co-op arrived home to find police cruisers out front and a female resident in tears after being assaulted by her husband. The co-op members thought the response by the police was inadequate and wanted to be more pro-active.

A year later in November 1990, the members of the 41 unit co-op unveiled a program to fight family violence. New bylaws now permit the co-op to kick abusers out of their unit, while providing the victime and family with money, if needed, to stay in the co-op. The onus is on the victim of domestic violence to request assistance.

The domestic violence committee is developing a closer working relationship with the police and has set up the co-op's common room as an information centre on counselling services available for drug addictions, family conflict and psychological therapy.

The intitative shown by the members of this housing co-op illustrates that communities often have workable solutions to offer in preventing family violence. By creating an environment where family violence is not acceptable, this community is leading the way in changing attitudes about violence.

For more information: Jackson's Point Co-operative Homes, 21048 Dalton Road, Jackson's Point, Ontario L0E 1L0

SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS PHILOSOPHY

1- All persons have the right to live free from harm, free from the fear of violence, and free from the abuse of their bodies, minds, and spirits.

2. (a)Sexual abuse and sexual assault are integral means of maintaining the pariarchal society in which we live. Our society promotes and protects male privilege and views women and children in terms of male property and ownership.

(b) Our society must stop promoting male privilege and must dismantle its means of maintaining oppression. We must name the crimes of sexual abuse and sexual assault and identify the offenders.

(c) Sexual abuse and sexual assault are intolerable in a caring society.

3. While work to accomplish fundamental changes in societal values and structures is ongoing, society has an obligation to provide what is necessary for Survivors of sexual abuse and sexual assault to heal.

4. For Survivors, the process of remembering and healing many be so intense as to require a special environment for their recovery to take place. This environment must provide physical safety, confidentiality, emotional support; and it must promote the well-being of the Survivors and their children.

For more information: Services for Adult Survivors of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Assault 368-7337

QUOTE NOTE:

Please keep sending in your favorite quotes for the newsletter. We are getting some great ones. Maybe we will publish a special issue of Dialogue just for quotes.

RESOURCES AND EVENTS

ENGAGING AND HELPING THE HARD TO REACH CLIENT: The Dynamics of Resistance and Case Management Skills. Workshop sponsored by the Maritime School of Social Work with Dr. Lawrence Shulman.

June 11 - 12, Moncton

June 13 -14, Halifax

For more information: Louise Calder 1- 494-3760

RESPONDING TO THE ABUSE OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Resource manual to assist those in contact with victims with disabilities.

Available from ARCH (Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped) 416 482-8255

FACILITATING GROUPS FOR ABUSIVE MEN: A practice oriented workshop with Barbara Pressman for those who will be working with groups for men who abuse their female partners.

Sponsored by Turning Point Group. September 12 - 13, Charlottetown.

For more information: Larry McKnight 892-2441

DIALOGUE, Family Violence Information Exchange, is published monthly by the Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention as a clearinghouse for information and community resources about family violence.

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Telephone (902) 368-4583 or FAX 368-4455

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION 20th OF EACH MONTH.

Section 3

The Local Consultations

Part 3

Local consultations

The Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention held consultations in six geographic locations. This section is intended to give a brief overview of these events.

If anyone wishes to obtain the full set of notes from any or all of these consultations please contact;

The Division of Home Care and Support,
P.O. Box 2000,
Charlottetown
P.E.I.
CIA 7N8

(902)-368-4210

Local Consultations
West Prince consultation

DATE: November 20th,1990

LOCATION: Westisle Consolidated School

CO-SPONSOR: West Prince Interagency Committee (WPIAC)

PRESENTATIONS: Representatives from the CCCFVP made a short presentation to the WPIAC at a their regular committee meeting on September 19th,1990.

FORMAT: See attached agenda.

ATTENDANCE: over 60 people attended.

KITS: provided to all participants,folders courtesy of the Credit Union.

LOCAL RESOURCES: the coordinator of Victims of Spousal Assault acted as on site coordinator,local planning committee,local people acted as recorders,facilitators and support staff.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: see attached.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS: notes available upon request.

SPECIAL QUALITIES: this was the first consultation and as such it set the tone for the following events. There was a good representation across the gender lines. At this event several men disclosed that they had been violent in their relationships and this gave a very positive message to the community, that there is help available. There was also a mix of professionals and non-professionals. There was a great deal of enthusiasm for the event and good feedback on the process which confirmed the direction for the following consultations. The presentation on family violence focused on personal sharing and was very well received.

EVALUATIONS:see attached summary.

FOLLOW UP: at the consultation several women availed themselves of the one-on-one support. They gravitated to the out-reach worker from Transition House Association and this became a catalyst to begin a support group for abused women in the West Prince area. The notes from the event were made available to the WPIAC but no actual follow-up meeting was held as the decision to do this as a part of our process was made at a later date.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE
WEST PRINCE CONSULTATION

WESTISLE SCHOOL
NOVEMBER 20, 1990
7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

AGENDA

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS CCCFV Members Local Committee/Resource People Participants	Valerie Strang	5 Mins.
BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON CCCFV	Steve McQuaid	5 Mins.
LOCAL ACTIVITIES REGARDING FAMILY VIOLENCE	John Buchanan	5 Mins.
SETTING THE STAGE Basic Agreements Purpose/Format of the Meeting Explain Small Group Exercise	Sandy Bentley	5 Mins.
PRESENTATION TO LARGE GROUP	Eileen Conway-Martin	10 Mins.
SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION		45 Mins.
GENERAL DISCUSSION	Sandy Bentley	30 Mins.
EVALUATION	Steve McQuaid	5 Mins.
CLOSING	Steve McQuaid Valerie Strang	5 Mins.

SMALL GROUP EXERCISE

Please discuss the following questions in your small group. One person has been assigned to facilitate (i.e., keep the group on topic, on time, and make sure everyone gets a chance to speak) and someone to record the main points. Let the recorder know if you do not want your comments recorded. You have about forty-five minutes for this exercise.

1. What is the first thing that you think of when you hear the words "family violence"?

2. How can we prevent family violence as individuals, as families, and as a community?

3. How can we help people feel more comfortable talking about family violence?

23 Completed

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

EVALUATION FORM

WESTISLE, NOVEMBER 20, 1990

Please take a few minutes to fill in this questionnaire. Your feedback will help us plan future events. Thank you.

1. **Did the consultation process meet the purpose of the evening?**

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
1. Were you comfortable with giving your ideas about family violence?	95%	5%	-
2. Did you learn more about local activities on the issue of family violence?	82%	13%	5%
3. Did you learn more about the issue of family violence?	82%	8%	10%
4. Do you think the evening helped the community focus on the prevention of family violence?	86%	4%	10%

2. **How do you rate the consultation overall?** (Check one.)

Excellent	48%
Good	52% (1 very good)
Neutral	
Poor	
Unsatisfactory	

3. **Please rate the following components of the consultation.** (Circle appropriate number.)

1 = Excellent
2 = Good
3 = Neutral
4 = Poor
5 = Unsatisfactory

	1	2	3	4	5
1. Background information on the consultation.	17%	69%	8%	–	–
2. Information on local activities.	21%	60%	13%	–	–

. . . 2

	1	2	3	4	5
3. Setting the stage. (i.e. agreements, purpose, etc)	34%	47%	-	4%	-
4. Presentation on family violence.	60%	30%	-	4%	-
5. Small group discussion.	43%	47%	-	4%	-
6. General discussion.	26%	43%	-	4%	-

7. Other
   - a. a little heavy on the background..a bit repetitive
   - b. background & setting the stage too long
   - c. need a bit more clarity on the background
   - d. don't understand the statement "setting the stage"
   - e. comfortable with the group but not the subject
   - f. the evening helped the small group focus on family violence as opposed to the community as a whole.

4. **Please rate the general organization of the event.**

Excellent	74%
Good	26%
Neutral	
Poor	
Satisfactory	

5. **How did you hear about the workshop?** (Check more than one if relevant.)

Pink flier	39%
Newsletter	4%
Church notice	30%
School notice	13%
Word of mouth	43%
Other (please specify)	

a. someone called me first
b. course instructor
c. phoned
d. work
e. place of employment, newspaper
f. I.A.C.F.V.

6. **How would you describe yourself?** (Check one or more.)

Interested citizen	56%
Professional involved in family violence issues	30%
Member of a community organization (e.g. W.I., youth group)	21%
Resource person for the consultation (e.g. facilitator, recorder, etc.)	34%
Other	13%

7. **Would you be interested in participating in any further activities about family violence (e.g. further training sessions, local community meetings, develop church programs, etc)?**

86% YES **4%** NO **4%** DON'T KNOW

Comments:
a. I think it is very necessary. I am becoming more aware of violence and all its forms. Violence seems to be becoming acceptable. Time to attend is an issue for me.
b. Further activities in this area I feel, would be a positive step. We must make people (society) believe that family violence is not acceptable.
c. I don't have the need for it at this point in time.

8. **Name, address and phone number if interested in follow-up activites:** (You can mail or phone this in later if you prefer to remain anonymous.)

9. **Do you have additional comments or suggestions?**

See Attached.

**The Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence is a group with members from community and government agencies.
Their task is to guide a public discussion on family violence.
For more info please contact:**

**Jill Lightwood
Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence
P. O. Box 2000
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
CIA 7N8
Telephone: (902) 368-4583**

#9.

A. Eileens talk very good and all talks. Eileen set the stage for opening up in our small group.
Evening was well organized and professionally conducted.
I am glad to know of the info and people who are available.

B. Have more support groups in West Prince.

C. Very good participation with our group.

D. More information on other forms of abuse.

E. This would have been better in my opinion, as a full day event. More time is needed for background and much more time for discussion. (Even a weekend forum on family violence!)
An excellent turn out but I really felt rushed - needs to be more in-depth.

F. The opportunity for small group discussions was a very positive change from the previous events held on this topic. I would encourage this be continued at future events.

G. The members of the CCCFV participation in the group discussion was announced to be "silent". The person who came to my group "took over" the position of facilitator - I feel useless in that position.

H. Have more support and also be more stricked. Be open and talk about it with others.

I. Invite people who have taken part in this consultation process to help their smaller communities organize mini consultation groups involving more and more people. Such groups could become catalysts for the formation of self-help groups for abusers and victims of abuse.

J. I would have liked to see more teachers, principles or people who educate our children here to get better informed on family violence.

Local Consultations
East Prince Consultation

DATE: January 30th,1991

LOCATION: Three Oaks High School

CO-SPONSORS: East Prince Committee on Family Violence (EPCFV) and the Summerside Citizens' Crime Prevention Committee (SCCPC)

PRESENTATIONS: Representatives from the CCCFVP made a presentation to the SCCPC on January 25th,1991 and a presentation to the EPCFV.

FORMAT: see attached agenda.

ATTENDANCE: over 50 people attended.

KITS: provided to all participants,folders courtesy of the Credit Union, kits contained information on the EPCFV. Please see attached contents of kit which was similar in each area.

LOCAL RESOURCES: the coordinator of Transition and Support Services (also a member of the CCCFVP) acted as the on site coordinator, local planning committee,local people acted as the recorders,facilitators and support staff.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: see attached.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS: notes available upon request.

SPECIAL QUALITIES: because there was a storm warning in effect for the evening the numbers were somewhat lower than anticipated. The issue of the spiritual dimension of the problem of family violence was raised by members of the Church community and also the need for shelter in the Summerside area was stressed. There was a good deal of interest in taking this process into smaller communities (e.g.Kensington). One discussion group was available for Francophones and key people from the Evangeline area participated in order to help planning for their area.

EVALUATIONS: see attached summary.

FOLLOW UP: a follow up meeting was held with the EPCFV, representatives of the CCCFVP and the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services.The Summerside Ministerial Association decided to take on the issue of family violence for a three month period,first by educating themselves and then by addressing the issue to their congregations. The EPCFV worked with them to provide information and identify resources.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION
SUMMERSIDE CONSULTATION

THREE OAKS SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL
JANUARY 22nd, 1991
7:00 - 9:30 P.M.

AGENDA

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS CCCFVP Members EPCFV SCCPC	Brenda Picard	5 Mins.
BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON CCCFVP	Steve McQuaid	5 Mins.
LOCAL ACTIVITIES		
East Prince Committee on Family Violence	Elaine Rieber	5 Mins.
Summerside Citizens Crime Prevention Committee	Debbie Stewart	5 Mins.
SETTING THE STAGE Basic Agreements Purpose/Format of the Meeting Explain Small Group Exercise	Sandy Bentley	10 Mins.
PRESENTATION TO LARGE GROUP	Eileen Conway-Martin	15 Mins.
SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION		50 Mins.
GENERAL DISCUSSION	Sandy Bentley	30 Mins.
EVALUATION	Steve McQuaid	5 Mins.
CLOSING	Steve McQuaid Brenda Picard	5 Mins.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Background

In May, 1989, an interministerial committee on family violence (IMCFV) was established under the leadership of the Department of Health and Social Services. The committee has representation from the Department of Justice and Attorney General, the Department of Education, the P.E.I. Housing Corporation, the Hospital and Health Services Commission, and the Women's Secretariat.

The committee has a mandate to develop a long-term plan for the reduction of family violence. The IMCFV recommended an initial step of public input.

Policy Board endorsed the establishment of a Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention (CCCFVP) with a one-year mandate from September, 1990 - September, 1991. The goals of this committee include:

... inviting dialogue and action on specific prevention strategies from groups and individuals;

... raising awareness about family violence and current activities;

... establishing a constructive climate in which to address prevention in the community;

... inviting a broad spectrum of interest from communities.

The Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention is co-chaired by Health and Social Services and Policy Board. The committee includes representatives from some of the community agencies involved in the issue of family violence. This group acts as a steering committee for the process, rather than a committee representing the full spectrum of interest groups on family violence.

Beginning in November, 1990, there will be a number of opportunities across the Island for public dialogue on family violence prevention. The discussion paper, "The Prevention of Family Violence - a community response," will provide a framework for these public consultations.

In September, 1991, the committee will submit a final report with recommendations to Cabinet based on the input from the public. The next stage will be determined at that time.

For more information, contact:

JILL LIGHTWOOD, Coordinator
Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention
(902) 368-4583

SMALL GROUP EXERCISE

Please discuss the following questions in your small group. One person has been assigned to facilitate (i.e., keep the group on topic, on time, and make sure everyone gets a chance to speak) and someone to record the main points. Let the recorder know if you do not want your comments recorded. You have about forty-five minutes for this exercise.

1. What is the first thing that you think of when you hear the words "family violence"?
2. How can we prevent family violence as:
    - a) individuals
    - b) families
    - c) a community?
3. What is the most important step that you can take to prevent family violence in your community?

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

EVALUATION FORM

SUMMERSIDE, JANUARY 30, 1991

Please take a few minutes to fill in this questionnaire. Your feedback will help us plan future events. Thank you.

1. **Did the consultation process meet the purpose of the evening?**

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
1. Were you comfortable with giving your ideas about family violence?	___	___	___
2. Did you learn more about local activities on the issue of family violence?	___	___	___
3. Did you learn more about the issue of family violence?	___	___	___
4. Do you think the evening helped the community focus on the prevention of family violence?	___	___	___

2. **How do you rate the consultation overall?** (Check one.)

Excellent ____
Good ____
Neutral ____
Poor ____
Unsatisfactory ____

3. **Please rate the following components of the consultation.** (Circle appropriate number.)

1 = Excellent
2 = Good
3 = Neutral
4 = Poor
5 = Unsatisfactory

1. Background information on the consultation. 1 2 3 4 5

2. Information on local activities. 1 2 3 4 5

. . . 2

3. Setting the stage. (i.e. agreements, purpose, etc)	1	2	3	4	5
4. Presentation on family violence.	1	2	3	4	5
5. Small group discussion.	1	2	3	4	5
6. General discussion.	1	2	3	4	5
7. Other ______________________________ ______________________________________ ______________________________________	1	2	3	4	5

4. **Please rate the general organization of the event.**

Excellent ____
Good ____
Neutral ____
Poor ____
Satisfactory ____

5. **How did you hear about the workshop?** (Check more than one if relevant.)

Flier ____
Newsletter ____
Church notice ____
School notice ____
Word of mouth ____
Press Coverage ____
Other (please specify) ______________________________________

6. **How would you describe yourself?** (Check one or more.)

Interested citizen ____
Professional involved in family violence issues ____
Member of a community organization (e.g. W.I., youth group) ____
Resource person for the consultation (e.g. facilitator, recorder, etc.) ____
Other ____

. . . 3

7. **Would you be interested in participating in any further activities about family violence (e.g. further training sessions, local community meetings, develop church programs, etc)?**

_____ YES _____ NO _____ DON'T KNOW

Comments: ______________________________

____

____

8. **Name, address and phone number if interested in follow-up activites:** (You can mail or phone this in later if you prefer to remain anonymous.)

____

____

____

____

9. **Do you have additional comments or suggestions?**

____

____

____

____

____

The Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence is a group with members from community and government agencies. Their task is to guide a public discussion on family violence. For more info please contact:

Jill Lightwood
Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence
P. O. Box 2000
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
CIA 7N8
Telephone: (902) 368-4583

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

Follow Up Ideas

There are many ways that we as individuals can help prevent family violence. Here are just a few simple ideas:

1. Take the discussion questions from tonight and discuss them with a friend, a family member or with a group that you belong to.

2. Call the National Film Board Office (368-4641) and borrow a video from their collection on family violence. There is no cost.

3. Display brochures (for example, for Anderson House and The PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Crisis Centre) in your office or place of work. Someone who needs help may see them.

4. Help children work out their problems by talking and not by striking out physically.

5. If you hear a joke or a story that makes fun of violence against women, don't be afraid to speak up.

6. Educate yourself by reading a book, watching t.v. program or by listening to a radio program that deals with family violence.

7. Offer to babysit for a family or a parent that needs a break.

8. Make a point of checking in with elderly people or people with disabilities who may be isolated or lonely.

9. Learn about all the helping agencies in your community so you can refer someone who has a problem with family violence.

10. Talk to someone you trust if you have having a problem.

11. Include information about family violence in newsletters.

12. Volunteer to help with community activities that help improve the quality of life for your community.

EAST PRINCE

RESOURCE LIST

This is not meant to be a complete list - but some important contact numbers for anyone concerned about family violence in their community.

For more information, contact:

Jill Lightwood
Coordinator
Community Consultation
Committee on Family
Violence Prevention
Department of Justice
P O Box 2000
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
CIA 7N8
(902) 368-4583

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Emergency Services

ANDERSON HOUSE		1-892-0960
Toll Free Emergency shelter for abused women and their children. 24 hour service.		
CHILD ABUSE		1-566-1122
Toll Free Reporting and Counselling		
CRIME STOPPERS		1-566-8477
Toll Free		
HOSPITALS		
Prince County Hospital, Summerside		436-9131
Stewart Memorial Hospital, Tyne Valley		831-2718
KIDS HELP LINE		1-800-668-6868
Toll Free		
P.E.I. RAPE & SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS CENTRE		566-8999
Crisis Line 24 Hour Service		
POLICE		
Borden Town Police		855-2228
Borden RCMP		855-2222
Summerside Town Police		436-9222
Summerside RCMP		436-9244
Kensington Town Police		836-3530
St. Eleanor's Town Police		436-5519
CFB Military Police		888-5382
SALVATION ARMY	Summerside	436-6044
24 Hour Service	After Hours	436-8079
Emergency shelter, food, and clothing		

Other Resources Available

ADDICTION SERVICES	436-4201
COMMUNITY LEGAL INFORMATION ASSOC.	1-892-0853
Toll Free Basic legal information free to general public.	
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	436-9124
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES	436-7294
EAST PRINCE COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE	436-2257
Chair - Rev. Bert VanCook	

EAST PRINCE FAMILY SERVICES BUREAU	436-9171
EAST PRINCE WOMEN'S INFORMATION CENTRE	436-9856
Summerside	
HOME CARE AND SUPPORT	436-2169
LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE	566-1666
Nominal fee for 1/2 hour advice.	
P.E.I. LEGAL AID	
Charlottetown	892-9131
Summerside	436-4219
SPOUSAL SUPPORT SERVICES	436-0517
Co-ordinator, Brenda Picard	
SUMMERSIDE CITIZENS CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE	436-9598
Chair, Debbie Stewart	
TEEN HELP LINE	368-7000
TURNING POINT GROUP	892-2441
A counselling program for men who are violent with their partners.	
VICTIMS SERVICES	
P.E.I. Dept. of Justice	
Assists victims of crime	
Charlottetown	368-4582
Summerside	436-8331

Considerations Regarding the Role of Recorder

A. Relax and enjoy yourself.

B. Introduce yourself as the group recorder reminding people that you will be writing the key responses to each question. Please stress that although the ideas (responses) will be recorded, no names will be written down. This aspect is is completely confidential.

C. If there is a response you need clarification, simply ask the individual to be certain that what is being written down truly reflects what was said. No need to be shy .. the person will appreciate your interest.

D. Naturally you will be summarizing a long response; thus, feel free to use some of your own words and if in doubt, clarify your summary with the person.

E. At the end of the time there will be 3-4 minutes whereby you may review the key responses with the group asking if they reflect what the group had to say. This is just a last check; no doubt you have captured the responses beautifully.

F. Please give the sheets with the responses to the group leader at the end of the evening and they will be added to the other groups ideas at a later date.

G. It would be useful to know more about the makeup of your group; the number, gender, occupation, community, etc.

Questions

1. When you think of family violence, what do you think of? (5 minutes)

2. How can we prevent family violence as:
    a) individuals
    b) families
    c) as a community? (20 minutes)

3. What is the most important step that **you** can take to prevent family violence in your community? (15 minutes)

Considerations Regarding the Role of Facilitator

A. Relax and enjoy yourself.

B. Encourage people to introduce themselves to one another before beginning the small group discussion, i.e. name, where living.

C. After the introductions, review some of the groundrules for the small group discussion:
   1) All information shared is to be confidential.
   2) People are encouraged to share what they feel comfortable with.
   3) It is not expected that there be a consensus in the group; rather, differences are to be welcomed and acknowledged as good.

D. Read through the three questions at this point and begin discussion on question number 1.

E. Try to maintain the following time limits for each question: Question 1 - 5 minutes; Question 2 - 15 minutes; Question 3 - 15 minutes.

F. Please allow 3-4 minutes at the end of the entire discussion for the recorder to review the key responses to each question and ask for any additions or clarifications.

G. Your primary role is to help people feel comfortable and to stay focused on the questions at hand. If there is a slight deviation thank the person for their interest and response and redirect the group back to the question at hand.

H. If a person chooses to share a personal story that is quite emotional, allow the person to share to a comfortable point and then encourage the person to spend time speaking with the designated counselor for the evening. Thank the person for their courage and trust in you and the group.

Questions

1. When you think of family violence, what do you think of? (5 minutes)

2. How can we prevent family violence as:
   a) individuals
   b) families
   c) as a community? (20 minutes)

3. What is the most important step that **you** can take to prevent family violence in your community? (15 minutes)

SUMMERSIDE CONSULTATION - JANUARY 30, 1991

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

EVALUATION FORM

Please take a few minutes to fill in this questionnaire. Your feedback will help us plan futuré events. Thank you.

1. **Did the consultation process meet the purpose of the evening?**

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
1. Were you comfortable with giving your ideas about family violence?	96%		3%
2. Did you learn more about local activities on the issue of family violence?	87%	6%	3%
3. Did you learn more about the issue of family violence?	70%	22%	3%
4. Do you think the evening helped the community focus on the prevention of family violence?	83%	3%	12%

2 **How do you rate the consultation overall?** (Check one)

Excellent	29%
Good	67%
Neutral	
Poor	
Unsatisfactory	

3. **Please rate the following components of the consultation.** (Circle appropriate number)

1 = Excellent
2 = Good
3 = Neutral
4 = Poor
5 = Unsatisfactory

1. Background information on the consultation.	19% 1	64% 2	12% 3	3% 4	0 5
2. Information on local activities.	19% 1	64% 2	12% 3	3% 4	0 5

3. **Setting the stage.** (i.e. agreements, purpose, etc)	35% 1	48% 2	6% 3	3% 4	0 5
4. Presentation on family violence.	48% 1	45% 2	3% 3	0 4	3% 5
5. Small group discussion.	54% 1	35% 2	6% 3	0 4	3% 5
6. General discussion.	19% 1	54% 2	6% 3	3% 4	0 5
7. Other ______________________	1	2	3	4	5

4. Please rate the general organization of the event.

Excellent 61%
Good 35%
Neutral ______
Poor ______
Satisfactory ______

5. How did you hear about the workshop? (Check more than one if relevant)

Flier 25%
Newsletter 12%
Church notice 16%
School notice 12%
Word of mouth 38%
Press Coverage 22%
Other (please specify) 29% (guest speaker, family member, work)

6. How would you describe yourself? (Check one or more)

Interested citizen 51%
Professional involved in family violence issues 29%
Member of a community organization (e.g. W.I., youth group) 29%
Resource person for the consultation (e.g. facilitator, recorder, etc) 32%
Other 9% (caring Christian, affected by f.v.)

7. **Would you be interested in participating in any further activities about family violence (e.g. further training sessions, local community meetings, develop church programs, etc)?**

87% YES 3% NO 3% DON'T KNOW

Comments: ________________________________

Comments on written evaluations;

-milk for coffee

-more of such sessions

-workshop where public is invited,similiar format;information and dialogue

-marvellous evening,helpful for me personally and professionally thanks!

-I feel that we need to have men organize to somehow provide a safe place for males to air their feelings before committing violence-men need to let men know it is O.K. to talk about how they feel.

-We need more outreach beyond professionals

-need to deal with the issue of violence of children against parents

-church leaders need to be informed of support systems available

-what effect does this have upon teenagers?

-linkage to the spiritual role of the church to change peoples lives-restoration as God intended

-it's just a beginning-now the door has opened don't let it close

-having a session in the Evangeline area

-shelter needed in S'side-funding required

-excellent organisation,even down to the chairs being arranged in circles ahead of time.Appreciated the care put into the organisation

-thankyou for the opportunity to participate in this forum

-I feel that more public discussion should be held

-very good session

-I was very fortunate to attend a workshop such as tonight-made me aware that there is something done on family violence.Long road ahead but a worthwhile one

-should have consultations with youth also

-although we have a lot of work to do I think we should sometimes take a step back and realize how far we have come.Twenty years ago when my mother was a teacher if any children talked about or had signs of abuse they had to keep it quiet and could not talk about it

-background info. is O.K. for those who are resource people,however I think there was too much detail for those who are just interested citizens

-instead of spending money on this committee use it to establish a shelter.It seems that we already know that the need exists;why study it further?

-feel the weather affected turn out

-small groups went very well

-would like to see longer discussion groups with more participation or invitations by facilitators for comments[for quieter people]

-we need not only to educate ourselves and our community but to start with our young people;elementary level,so by the time they are adults they can eliminate the violence from their lives and know where to go,or how to eliminate the stress which contributes to this violence

-promote healthy family life in order to get to the root of the problem rather than always aiding

-a full scale media approach by all govt. departments similiar to drinking and driving over the past few years

-bring about a change in parenting and creating a healthy family environment-then there will be eless family violence

-unfortunate that large proportion of those in attendance were "committee" or "resource people"

-make more time for answering questions

-give a talk on a situation about family violence,or a film etc. to show people just what is going on.This would make people more aware and maybe open their eyes

Local Consultations
Southern King's and Queen's

DATE: April 23rd,1991

LOCATION: Montague Regional High School

CO-SPONSOR: The Southern King's and Queen's Community Advisory Board (SKQAB)

PRESENTATIONS: a representative from the CCCFVP made a brief presentation at the Interagency luncheon, held on April 16th,1991.

FORMAT: see attached agenda.

ATTENDANCE: over 60 people attended.

KITS: each participant received a kit which included notice of a follow up meeting. The kits were provided by the Credit Union.

LOCAL RESOURCES: director of Aware and a Transition House Board Member from the area acted as the on site co-ordinators, local planning committee,local people acted as recorders,facilitators and support staff.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: see attached.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS: notes available upon request.

SPECIAL QUALITIES: the planning committee in Montague was committed to follow-up and began to plan for this even before the event was held. The support of the SKQCAB meant that the event was advertised in their newsletter,"The Southeast Scene", which went to almost 5,000 homes. It was also the first consultation where we hear from a child, who spoke eloquently on the need to prevent violence in the community.

EVALUATIONS: see attached summary.

FOLLOW UP: the planning committee planned a follow up meeting for May 7th,1991. About 17 people attended. From this meeting four working committees formed: education and information, support groups, needs assessment for the area, and resource centre. Representatives from the CCCFVP met with the local planning committee prior to this first follow up meeting and subsequent discussion was held about the possibility of Federal funding for the needs assessment which would also provide valuable information for the other working groups.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION
SOURIS CONSULTATION

SOURIS HOSPITAL
April 25, 1991
7:30 - 9:00 P.M.

AGENDA

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS CCCFVP Members Local Planning Committee	Pauline Peters	5 Mins.
BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON CCCFVP	Sandy Bentley	5 Mins.
SETTING THE STAGE Basic Agreements Purpose/Format of the Meeting Explain Small Group Exercise	Sandy Bentley	10 Mins.
PRESENTATION ON FAMILY VIOLENCE	Dr. Philip Smith	20 Mins.
SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION		25 Mins.
GENERAL DISCUSSION	Sandy Bentley	15 Mins.
EVALUATION		5 Mins.
CLOSING	Pauline Peters Sandy Bentley	5 Mins.

SMALL GROUP EXERCISE

Please discuss the following questions in your small group. One person has been assigned to facilitate (i.e., keep the group on topic, on time, and make sure everyone gets a chance to speak) and someone to record the main points. Let the recorder know if you do not want your comments recorded. You have about twenty-five minutes for this exercise.

1. What do you think family violence is?
2. What are the influences that bring about family violence?
3. How can we prevent family violence?

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

EVALUATION FORM

SOURIS, APRIL 25,1991

Please take a few minutes to fill in this questionnaire. Your feedback will help us plan future events. Thank you.

1. Did the consultation process meet the purpose of the evening?

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
1. Were you comfortable with giving your ideas about family violence?	100%	0	0
2. Did you learn more about local activities on the issue of family violence?	78%	10%	5%
3. Did you learn more about the issue of family violence?	94%	5%	0
4. Do you think the evening helped the community focus on the prevention of family violence?	100%	0	0

Comment: use of toll free numbers not something we've always thought of using or referring.

2 How do you rate the consultation overall? (Check one)

Excellent	63%
Good	37%
Neutral	
Poor	
Unsatisfactory	

3. Please rate the following components of the consultation. (Circle appropriate number)

1 = Excellent
2 = Good
3 = Neutral
4 = Poor
5 = Unsatisfactory

1. Background information on the consultation.	73% 1	26% 2	0 3	0 4	0 5
2. Information on local activities.	31% 1	47% 2	21% 3	0 4	0 5

	63%	31%	0	0	0
3. **Setting the stage.** (i.e. agreements, purpose, etc)	1	2	3	4	5
	73%	26%	0	0	0
4. **Presentation on family violence.**	1	2	3	4	5
	78%	15%	0	0	0
5. **Small group discussion.**	1	2	3	4	5
	63%	36%	0	0	0
6. **General discussion.**	1	2	3	4	5
	1%				
7. **Other** guest speaker a "1"	1	2	3	4	5

On question 3, someone wrote "didn't really understand".

4. **Please rate the general organization of the event.**

Excellent	84%
Good	16%
Neutral	
Poor	
Satisfactory	

5. **How did you hear about the workshop?** **(Check more than one if relevant)**

Flier	32%
Newsletter	5%
Church notice	21%
School notice	0
Word of mouth	37%
Press Coverage	16%
Other (please specify)	5% (committee member, planning committee, friend at work, involvement)

6. **How would you describe yourself?** **(Check one or more)**

Interested citizen	37%
Professional involved in family violence issues	37%
Member of a community organization (e.g. W.I., youth group)	32% (1 noted as clergy)
Resource person for the consultation (e.g. facilitator, recorder, etc)	32%
Other	5% (Social Service's Worker,

7. **Would you be interested in participating in any further activities about family violence (e.g. further training sessions, local community meetings, develop church programs, etc)?**

84% **YES** 5% **NO** 5% **DON'T KNOW**

Comments: (1) I would be interested if I can fit it into my schedule. (2) Enjoyed it thoroughly - informality lended to comfortability in the groups. (3) The "no" answer was "due to time".

8. **Name, address and phone number if interested in follow-up activities:** **(You can mail or phone this in later if you prefer to remain anonymous.)**

SEE ATTACHED

9. **Do you have additional comments or suggestions?**

SEE ATTACHED

The Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention is a group with members from community and government agencies.

Their task is to guide a public discussion on family violence.

For more information please contact:

Jill Lightwood
Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention
P O Box 2000
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
CIA 7N8
Telephone: (902) 368-4583

9.

- Hope that there will be some follow-up.
- Very interesting - really makes you take a closer look at the problem of family violence.
- A very enjoyable and informative evening - would have liked to see more of the general public present as well as people involved.
- People in this community generally don't turn out in large numbers to discuss issues. Might better reach people through existing organizations.
- I am really interested in this topic. I am willing to help out any way I can. Please feel free to call on me for help.

Local Consultations
Eastern King's

DATE: April 25th,1991

LOCATION: Souris Hospital

CO-SPONSORS: Local area churches and the local planning committee

PRESENTATIONS: a short presentation had been made at the Souris Interagency luncheon on January 25th,1991.

FORMAT: see attached agenda.

ATTENDANCE: about 30 people attended.

KITS: every participant received a kit.

LOCAL RESOURCES: Home Care and Support staff provided on site co-ordination, local planning committee,local people acted as recorders,facilitators and support staff.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: see attached.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS: notes available upon request.

SPECIAL QUALITIES: although the turn out was smaller than elsewhere, the discussions were in depth and lively.There was a great deal of concern expressed about the need for confidential services in this community. The display by Community Legal Information Association received attention from people in the clinic waiting area.

EVALUATIONS: see attached summary.

FOLLOW UP: a representative from the CCCFVP met with members of the local planning committee. Members were encouraged to send the notes from the small groups to their various contacts. The planning committee plans to hold a follow up meeting in the fall.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION
MONTAGUE CONSULTATION

MONTAGUE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
APRIL 23, 1991
7:00 - 9:30 P.M.

AGENDA

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS CCCFVP Members Support People Information Kit	B.J. Nicholson	5 Mins.
BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON CCCFVP	Kathleen Hamilton	5 Mins.
COMMUNITY SERVICES	Brenda Creighton	5 Mins.
SETTING THE STAGE Basic Agreements Forms of family violence Purpose/Format of the Meeting Explain Small Group Exercise	Sandy Bentley	15 Min.
PRESENTATION TO LARGE GROUP	Eileen Conway-Martin	15 Min.
SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION		55 Mins.
GENERAL DISCUSSION	Sandy Bentley	30 Mins.
EVALUATION	Kathleen Hamilton	5 Mins.
CLOSING	Sandy Bentley B.J. Nicholson	5 Mins.

SMALL GROUP EXERCISE

Please discuss the following questions in your small group. One person has been assigned to facilitate (i.e., keep the group on topic, on time, and make sure everyone gets a chance to speak) and someone to record the main points. Let the recorder know if you do not want your comments recorded. You have about forty-five minutes for this exercise.

1. What is the first thing that you think of when you hear the words "family violence"?

2. How can we prevent family violence as:

   a) individuals
   b) families
   c) communities

3. What resources are needed in this community to support individuals and work towards family violence prevention?

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

EVALUATION FORM

MONTAGUE, APRIL 23, 1991

Please take a few minutes to fill in this questionnaire. Your feedback will help us plan future events. Thank you.

1. **Did the consultation process meet the purpose of the evening?**

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
1. Were you comfortable with giving your ideas about family violence?	95%	0	0
2. Did you learn more about local activities on the issue of family violence?	62%	30%	0
3. Did you learn more about the issue of family violence?	76%	16%	2%
4. Do you think the evening helped the community focus on the prevention of family violence?	86%	0	6%

2 **How do you rate the consultation overall?** (Check one)

Excellent	30%
Good	65%
Neutral	2%
Poor	
Unsatisfactory	

2% rated as 'fair'

3. **Please rate the following components of the consultation.** (Circle appropriate number)

1 = Excellent
2 = Good
3 = Neutral
4 = Poor
5 = Unsatisfactory

1. Background information on the consultation.	18% 1	62% 2	18% 3	0 4	0 5
2. Information on local activities.	11% 1	39% 2	37% 3	11% 4	0 5

3. Setting the stage. (i.e. agreements, purpose, etc)	51% 1	41% 2	4% 3	0 4	0 5
4. Presentation on family violence.	51% 1	39% 2	0 3	2% 4	0 5
5. Small group discussion.	48% 1	41% 2	4% 3	0 4	0 5
6. General discussion.	18% 1	44% 2	11% 3	4% 4	2% 5
7. Other ____________________	1	2	3	4	5

4. Please rate the general organization of the event.

Excellent	58%
Good	39%
Neutral	______
Poor	______
Satisfactory	______

5. How did you hear about the workshop? (Check more than one if relevant)

Flier	32%
Newsletter	18%
Church notice	13%
School notice	4%
Word of mouth	44%
Press Coverage	20%

Other (please specify) work(3);counsellor;attended some planning meetings
through volunteer group;asked to replace facilitator;asked to record;friend;was par
of;call from committee.

6. How would you describe yourself? (Check one or more)

Interested citizen	62%
Professional involved in family violence issues	32%
Member of a community organization (e.g. W.I., youth group)	20%
Resource person for the consultation (e.g. facilitator, recorder, etc)	20%
Other	6%

7. **Would you be interested in participating in any further activities about family violence (e.g. further training sessions, local community meetings, develop church programs, etc)?**

74% - YES _0_ NO _11%_ DON'T KNOW

Comments: ____

8. **Name, address and phone number if interested in follow-up activities:** (You can mail or phone this in later if you prefer to remain anonymous.)

See attached

9. **Do you have additional comments or suggestions?**

See attached.

The Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention is a group with members from community and government agencies.
Their task is to guide a public discussion on family violence.
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Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention
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Charlottetown, P.E.I.
CIA 7N8
Telephone: (902) 368-4583

3. (7) -small group discussion could have been better
   -have recorders use the mike
   -not enough time for general discussion
   -each group took too long. Should only be 2 or 3 points on each question. Remainder could be handed in to organizers.
   -Eileen Conway Martin & Sandy Bentley rated as a "1+"
   -some speakers too far away to hear
   -introductions rated as a "1"
   -willingness to learn by everyone rated as a "1"
   -materials available rated as a "1"
   -'Information on local activities' - rated as a '4' with note possibly due to a limited amount of resources.
   -comment under question 2-'ok for those who know what labels mean.'
   -comment under question 1 & 2 - 'good to identify people but really didn't give much info.'
   -comment under question 1 & 2-' more needed'.

7. - very interested
   - I might help but too old to take the lead.
   - more of these on an ongoing basis would probably help more people in violent situations.
   - if time allows.
   - develop church programs
   - maybe
   - an issue which has gone unaddressed for much too long. It affects all of us whether we are directly involved or not.

9. Comments/Suggestions:

This happens in every group I've been part of, but I see very little value in the reporting back. Often it is repetition.

Overall, evening was excellent and very profitable. Well organized and carried out. THANKS.

Self help groups are very important. A.C.O.A. Monday night 7:00 p.m., Lower Montague for Adult Children of Alcoholics and other dysfunctional families.

Is there a need for practical help - self help groups? Techniques such as time outs, support groups, stress management that mayhelp prevent escalation to an episode of violence.

Keep up the good work. One suggestion is to let the schools know about the meetings.

Better facilities - sound is bad! / seats are hard!

I was disappointed not to see more police, (teachers), doctors, lawyers. (Teachers - there were quite a few come to think of it.)

Excellent presentation. Found the general discussion part a bit drawn out - repetition. I'm not sure how to rectify this.

Need more meetings.

Very informative and thought provoking.

Question #1 should also ask what factors may lead to or cause family violence in addition to what do you think of when you hear the word family violence. This is a very well organized event.

Need more meetings on family violence.

The general discussion and recorders took too long to report back.

It's good to spend time and money talking about this issue but, I believe it better to focus upon tangeable solutions.

Is it time for a Saturday meeting?

Some type of video (film) to give examples of family violence would give a stronger build up to small group work. (Person here called the film an interest builder.)

Local Consultations
Evangeline

DATE: May 29th,1991

LOCATION: Centre d'Education Evangeline

CO-SPONSORS: Egmont Bay, Wellington, and Mont Carmel Parish Councils and Jeunesse Acadienne

FORMAT: see attached agenda.

ATTENDANCE: over 60 people attended.

KITS: provided to each participant,folders courtesy of the Credit Union, material was provided in both official languages.

LOCAL RESOURCES: Home Care and Support staff provided on site co-ordination and some translation services,local planning committee,local resource people acted as recorders,facilitators and support staff.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: see attached.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS: notes available upon request.

SPECIAL QUALITIES: there was a large number of teen-agers present at this event largely due to the efforts of Jeunesse Acadienne who had made a presentation at the school. There was provision made for discussion groups to be held in both French and English. Also the very moving presentation, a first hand account of violence, was delivered in both languages. The sponsorship of the Parish councils enabled us to attach information to all the church bulletins the Sunday before the event. It was striking in this community how comfortable the community, and particularly the youth, seemed to feel around various authority figures (e.g. police officer,social worker and clergy).

EVALUATIONS: see attached summary.

FOLLOW UP: representatives of the CCCFVP met with the local planning committee who intend to conduct a follow up meeting in the fall. There seemed to be considerable support for more public education. Positive feedback was also received from a staff person from La Voix Acadienne who was interested in providing regular coverage on this topic.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

CENTRE D'EDUCATION EVANGELINE
29 May, 1991
7:30 p.m.

AGENDA

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS CCCFVP members Local planning committee	Jeannita Bernard	5 Mins.
BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON CCCFVP	Steve McQuaid	3 Mins.
SETTING THE STAGE Basic Agreements Purpose/format of the meeting Explain small group exercise	Sandy Bentley Jeannita Bernard	15 Mins.
PRESENTATION TO LARGE GROUP		15 Mins.
SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION		60 Mins.
GENERAL DISCUSSION		15 Mins.
EVALUATION		5 Mins.
CLOSING		2 Mins.

COMITÉ CONSULTATIF COMMUNAUTAIRE SUR LA PRÉVENTION DE LA VIOLENCE FAMILIALE
CONSULTATION DE LA RÉGION ÉVANGÉLINE

CENTRE D'ÉDUCATION ÉVANGELINE
le 29 Mai, 1991
à 7:30 p.m.

AGENDA

BIENVENU ET PRÉSENTATIONS	Jeannita Bernard	5 mins.
Membres du CCCPVF		
Membres du comité local		
HISTORIQUE DU CCCPVF	Steve McQuaid	5 mins.
CRÉER L'AMBIANCE		
Conventions de base	Sandy Bentley	15 mins.
But/format de la réunion	Jeannita Bernard	
Exercice de petits groupes		
PRÉSENTATION À LA RÉUNION		15 mins.
DISCUSSION EN GROUPE		60 mins.
PLÉNIÈRE		15 mins.
ÉVALUATION		5 mins.
AJOURNEMENT		2 mins.

SMALL GROUP EXERCISE

Please discuss the following questions in your small group. One person has been assigned to facilitate (i.e., keep the group on topic, on time, and make sure everyone gets a chance to speak) and someone to record the main points. Let the recorder know if you do not want your comments recorded. You have about forty-five minutes for this exercise.

1. What is the first thing that you think of when you hear the words "family violence"?
2. How can we prevent family violence as:
    a) individuals
    b) families
    c) a community?
3. What is the most important step that you can take to prevent family violence in your community?

EXERCICE DE GROUPE

S'il vous plaît, discutez les questions suivantes dans vos petits groupes. Une personne a été désignée pour faciliter la discussion, (c.-à-d. garder le groupe au sujet, tenir compte du temps et s'assurer que tout le monde puisse s'exprimer) et une autre personne prendra note des grandes lignes. Avisez le/la secrétaire si vous ne voulez pas que vos commentaires soient notés. Vous avez à peu pres, 60 minutes pour cette discussion.

1. A quoi pensez-vous lorsque vous entendez les mots "violence familiale"?
2. Comment peut-on prévenir la violence familiale en tant:
    a) qu'individus
    b) que famille
    c) que communauté?
3. Quelle est la chose la plus importante que vous pouvez faire pour prévenir la violence familiale dans votre communauté?

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

EVALUATION FORM

EVANGELINE, MAY 29TH, 1991

Please take a few minutes to fill in this questionnaire. Your feedback will help us plan future events. Thank you.

1. Did the consultation process meet the purpose of the evening?

	YES	NO 'not really'	DON'T KNOW
1. Were you comfortable with giving your ideas about family violence?	87%	5%	5%
2. Did you learn more about local activities on the issue of family violence?	80%	10%	7%
3. Did you learn more about the issue of family violence?	87%	10%	2%
4. Do you think the evening helped the community focus on the prevention of family violence?	97%	-	-

2 How do you rate the consultation overall? (Check one)

Excellent	57%
Good	37%
Neutral	
Poor	
Unsatisfactory	

3. Please rate the following components of the consultation. (Circle appropriate number)

1 = Excellent
2 = Good
3 = Neutral
4 = Poor
5 = Unsatisfactory

	1	2	3	4	5
1. Background information on the consultation.	47%	47%	15%	-	-
2. Information on local activities.	27%	45%	22%	2%	-

3. **Setting the stage.** (i.e. agreements, purpose, etc)	35% 1	47% 2	10% 3	- 4	- 5
4. **Presentation on family violence.**	45% 1	5% 2	7% 3	- 4	- 5
5. **Small group discussion.**	52% 1	57% 2	- 3	5% 4	- 5
6. **General discussion.**	25% 1	60% 2	2% 3	5% 4	- 5
7. **Other** overall (1) ; variety of abuses (1);	2% 1	7% 2	3	4	5

4. Please rate the general organization of the event.

Excellent	57%
Good	40%
Neutral	
Poor	
Satisfactory	

5. How did you hear about the workshop? (Check more than one if relevant)

Flier	5%
Newsletter	15%
Church notice	32%
School notice	25%
Word of mouth	37%
Press Coverage	20%
Other (please specify)	20% - girlfriend;committee;on committee;invited by committee member;meeting at school;Ms. Lightwood called me;

6. How would you describe yourself? (Check one or more)

Interested citizen	62%
Professional involved in family violence issues	15%
Member of a community organization (e.g. W.I., youth group)	27%
Resource person for the consultation (e.g. facilitator, recorder, etc)	15% (YMAD)
Other	2%

7. Would you be interested in participating in any further activities about family violence (e.g. further training sessions, local community meetings, develop church programs, etc)?

77% **YES** 2% **NO** 5% **DON'T KNOW**

Comments: Involved in too many organizations at present. I know, I've been there! - general meetings;discussion groups, organizational meetings dealing with what community is going to do(e.g. crisis centre); helps me to be aware of what's happening in my community; guest speaker!!;especially last two mentioned.

8. Name, address and phone number if interested in follow-up activities: (You can mail or phone this in later if you prefer to remain anonymous.)

9. Do you have additional comments or suggestions?

See attached.

The Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention is a group with members from community and government agencies.

Their task is to guide a public discussion on family violence. For more information please contact:

Jill Lightwood
Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention
P O Box 200C
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
CIA 7N8
Telephone: (902) 368-4583

8.

Malheureusement, je demenage prochainement.

9.

GUEST SPEAKER!!! (victim or abuser!!!) All the way awesome.

It is necessary for the word to get out that all individuals have a responsibility to be aware of the signs of abuse, provide help to victims, encourage victims to seek help, and to make the authorities aware of situations when necessary. A community is the sum of its individuals. A community becomes dysfunctional when it's individuals do not recognize their responsibility.

Preferably have a guest speaker on personal experience.

I am just happy to see that our community has finally opened it's eyes to the problem of family violence. I was part of YMAD and for a while it seemed like we were alone to conquer the problem. Now I know we're not.

Keep up the good work.

There should have been someone who could talk to the people who have gone through "abuse".

I am a social work student at U of M and I am very interested in any conferences or activities related to family violence or any subjects of the sort. The conference tonight was very interesting and important. Educating the socity about family violence is also very important as is education on sexual aggression, alcoholism, etc. I think that organizing a session for all the members of the community was a great idea but I think that the idea of organizing youth conferences is also a great way of educating the younger population. Teens are often more willing to make a difference if only they were informed and shown how they can help. Conferences and information sessions like tonight would help initiate these young people as well as not so young people. Congratulations on a great session tonight.

I really liked the session tonight. We don't often get the chance to touch subjects such as these in the socity. It should be done more often. I also really think that the youth conferences should in some way be able to SURVIVE! I've learned so much from these conferences which I attended on crime prevention. I only wish that other youths would get that opportunity. If there is not much money available even one day conferences would be a beginning.

Must keep working to solve problem.

. . . 2

9. cont'd

I realize a lot of thought was put into the correct wording in advertising this meeting, but we need to put ourselves more in the place of the people we want to attract in order to draw them in (e.g. men, youth, single and married couples...). Well done. I hope the discussion won't stop here but grow. I'm looking forward to attending other such meetings, especially when the community will be ready to do something concrete to combat this evil. I appreciated the meeting's non-condeming orientation.

This was a great idea! I had lots of fun and learned a lot.

Good program though it seemed a little long and dragged out.

It was really well organized. The pamphlets were great.

Maybe later.

Hope this meeting is a beginning for future education on violence and we can get more people involved.

People have acknowledged family violence and learned that it's on the rise.

Family violence should be more public.

I hope we can continue a good communication between our local committee and yours. Thank you for all your support up till now.

Local Consultations
Queen's county

DATE: June 25th,1991

LOCATION: Holland College,Charlottetown Centre

CO-SPONSORS: Charlottetown Christian Council, Community Legal Information Association, the Interagency Committee on Family Violence and the PEI Multicultural Council

FORMAT: see attached agenda.

ATTENDANCE: over 100 people attended.

KITS: all participants received a kit,folders courtesy of Secretary of State.

LOCAL RESOURCES: local planning committee, many local people acted as recorders, facilitators and support staff. The chair of the Christian Council took the time to visit many of the local area churches personally.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: see attached.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS: notes available upon request.

SPECIAL QUALITIES: this consultation was the largest event to organize as it was held in the city. A special orientation session was held for the recorders and facilitators as we were prepared for about 20 groups. This meeting was very helpful and demonstrated the enormous commitment on the part of these volunteers. It was decided to present information on family violence using actors to give voice to those who are affected by it. This was received very positively and added a special quality to the evening.

EVALUATIONS: see attached summary.

FOLLOW UP: no specific follow up was planned. It was difficult to meet with the planning committee because of summer vacations,however each of the co-sponsoring groups will continue to be involved in family violence issues and education and would be open to continuation of the process.

Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention

QUEENS COUNTY CONSULTATION

HOLLAND COLLEGE CHARLOTTETOWN CENTRE

JUNE 25, 1991 - 7-10 P.M.

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions CCCFVP Members Local planning committee Information kits	ANN SHERMAN	10 min.
Background Information on CCCFVP	KATHLEEN HAMILTON	5 min.
Setting the Stage Basic agreements Purpose/format of meeting Explain small group exercise	SANDY BENTLEY	15 min.
Presentation to Large Group		15 min.
Small Group Discussion		60 min.
Feedback from Small Groups (includes time to gather in gym)		20 min.
General Discussion		30 min.
Evaluation		5 min
CLOSING	ANN SHERMAN SANDY BENTLEY	5 min.

. . . .

SMALL GROUP EXERCISE

Please discuss the following questions in your small group. One person has been assigned to facilitate (i.e., keep the group on topic, on time, and make sure everyone gets a chance to speak) and someone to record the main points. Let the recorder know if you do not want your comments recorded. You have about one hour for this exercise.

1. What is the first thing that you think of when you hear the words "family violence"?

2. How can we prevent family violence as:

    a) individuals
    b) families
    c) communities

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

EVALUATION FORM

CHARLOTTETOWN, JUNE 25TH, 1991

Please take a few minutes to fill in this questionnaire. Your feedback will help us plan future events. Thank you.

1. Did the consultation process meet the purpose of the evening?

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
1. Were you comfortable with giving your ideas about family violence?	96%	-	-
2. Did you learn more about local activities on the issue of family violence?	62%	31%	-
3. Did you learn more about the issue of family violence?	74%	20%	3%
4. Do you think the evening helped the community focus on the prevention of family violence?	81%	1%	10%

to a degree but with better facilitation could have been more - focus was on *bandaid* solutions. ;I've been a victim of wife abuse so already know most of it.

I would hope that this is a good start.

2 How do you rate the consultation overall? (Check one)

Excellent	34%
Good	58%
Neutral	5%
Poor	
Unsatisfactory	

3. Please rate the following components of the consultation. (Circle appropriate number)

1 = Excellent
2 = Good
3 = Neutral
4 = Poor
5 = Unsatisfactory

	24%	55%	6%	6%	-
1. Background information on the consultation.	1	2	3	4	5
	6%	37%	37%	6%	-
2. Information on local activities. esp. CLIA display	1	2	3	4	5

3. **Setting the stage.** (i.e. agreements, purpose, etc)	31% 1	53% 2	- 3	3% 4	1% 5
4. **Presentation on family violence.**	50% 1	36% 2	3% 3	5% 4	- 5
5. **Small group discussion.**	41% 1	34% 2	10% 3	3% 4	1% 5
6. **General discussion.**	15% 1	46% 2	15% 3	5% 4	- 5
7. **Other**	6% 1	5% 2	1% 3	4	5

a 4-5 was given for drama presentation & Colin Campbell.

feedback; staying in the timeframe;kids presence; evaluation;organization of discussion groups & transition into discussion time; more privacy between groups;we had to reallywork at discussing in our small group. Flow seemed hard to get going.;too close tog. in small grps.;refreshments-chance to communicate;Role play was quick, effective way of presenting the cross-section of issues.;Workshop room(discussion room);time frame;

4. Please rate the general organization of the event.

Excellent	58%
Good	34%
Neutral	
Poor	
Satisfactory	

5. How did you hear about the workshop? **(Check more than one if relevant)**

Flier	32%
Newsletter	17%
Church notice	22%
School notice	3%
Word of mouth	24% - Crisis Ctr meeting
Press Coverage	13%
Other (please specify)	15% - work;asked to participate;from Kathleen at Crisis Ctr;copy of ______ paper;Women's network; friend.

6. How would you describe yourself? **(Check one or more)**

Interested citizen	37%
Professional involved in family violence issues	31%
Member of a community organization (e.g. W.I., youth group)	22%
Resource person for the consultation (e.g. facilitator, recorder, etc)	25%
Other	12% - Rape Crisis Ctr volunteer;Informal support person for women & children(networking at home).;childrens/womens' advocate;Parish Pastorial Council;

7. Would you be interested in participating in any further activities about family violence (e.g. further training sessions, local community meetings, develop church programs, etc)?

68% YES 6% NO 13% DON'T KNOW

Comments: education & orientation;local comm. meeting,church programs,school prog. coming from a patriachal culture, I think approach to f.v. issue is dealt in a different perspective. I hope this will be dealt with in the future.; I work with addicted women & would like to know more about what some of them have gone through.; We needed this - I needed this.; I would like to know what is happening & be given the chance to attend.; good work!;This was an excellent start to communication on these problems in society.;I need to be involved.;Information & training sessions;report writing, facilitate parent training grps-education;I think this is only the beginning-we(indiv., families & comm.) need more.;my involvement is presently informal & very personal;am involved to degree I can.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

EVALUATION FORM

CHARLOTTETOWN, JUNE 25TH, 1991

Please take a few minutes to fill in this questionnaire. Your feedback will help us plan future events. Thank you.

1. Did the consultation process meet the purpose of the evening?

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
1. Were you comfortable with giving your ideas about family violence?	96%	-	-
2. Did you learn more about local activities on the issue of family violence?	62%	31%	-
3. Did you learn more about the issue of family violence?	74%	20%	3%
4. Do you think the evening helped the community focus on the prevention of family violence?	81%	1%	10%

to a degree but with better facilitation could have been more - focus was on *bandaid* solutions. ;I've been a victim of wife abuse so already know most of it.

I would hope that this is a good start.

2 How do you rate the consultation overall? (Check one)

Excellent	34%
Good	58%
Neutral	5%
Poor	
Unsatisfactory	

3. Please rate the following components of the consultation.
(Circle appropriate number)

1 = Excellent
2 = Good
3 = Neutral
4 = Poor
5 = Unsatisfactory

	24%	55%	6%	6%	-
1. Background information on the consultation.	1	2	3	4	5
	6%	37%	37%	6%	-
2. Information on local activities. esp. CLIA display	1	2	3	4	5

8. Name, address and phone number if interested in follow-up activities: **(You can mail or phone this in later if you prefer to remain anonymous.)**

9. Do you have additional comments or suggestions?

See attached.

The Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention is a group with members from community and government agencies.
Their task is to guide a public discussion on family violence.
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P O Box 2000
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
CIA 7N8
Telephone: (902) 368-4583

- very well organized! Congratulations on a good evening.
- a longer or additional session to focus on specific troubled areas and divide thus.
- this was a great format to share and discussions, to raise awareness, and socialize with those of like interest.
- where do the recommendations go after they leave the committee?- Is there a watchdog to see what happens? What are you going to do about action from individuals, churches and community?
- group sessions could have been 1½ hrs. - people are more aware of family violence - a little unnecessary for all those introductions. - microphone in centre aisle - impossible to hear comments.
- more communication between various professional groups - Social Services, Justice, etc as to program/information available.
- government needs to understand long term consequences of family violence - prevention will reduce costs in the long term - health costs, emotional costs, educational cots, etc.
- I have trouble getting past the label "family" when more solutions can be found by seeking communication and support from outside the family to community, schools, friends, helplines, safehouses. The need to respect rights of all people to their ideas, opinions, needs, (children, women, natives, immigrants). Define family as a network of supporters not necessarily related by blood/marriage/law.
- sound difficulties - actors presentation was great - live is good and is a sure way to reach the emotions within.
- hard work to do this - you all deserve a lot of credit for it.
- we talk about ending violence - we must prescribe peace - we must strive to study, learn and teach the differences in male and female thought processes and then uphold RESPECT. Being here has been encouraging for me. - I almost didn't come. Thanks.
- don't video anything! The flesh and breath of line theatre is far more effective a tool. We're inundated with video effects.
- the actors skits was discussed in our small group discussions but I found it a bit disjunct, that's probably artistic interpretation (I don't know).
- could have tightened up coming together after small groups. liked stage presentations - good to have support persons - good munchies.
- keep up this essential work.
- you are all swell, love, gwyn
- I think the whole question of what is wrong with our society needs to be looked at closely to see what effect the media has had - particularly extreme horror and pornography; separation of the family unit through jobs, day care, etc.
- please send me the completed documentation of the entire evening.
- informed resource persons - well organized - comprehensive - felt comfortable in discussion group - appreciated confidentialty - good job.
- please recommend family violence education in schools.

9. cont'd

- this was an excellent presentation. I am very glad I was able to attend.
- it's very difficult to feel optimistic about prevention because it has its roots in our societal beliefs about roles and power and control.
- is there somebody from the Ethnic community (among the visible minority) a member of the consultation committee/ministerial committee?
- no -- except the feedback process was very well done!
- nice if more of general public attended - more emphasis on follow up activities.
- great evening & very informative.
- the follow up of tonight is so important, that action must follow words. So much harm (as well as potential good) is done by the media. Children have access to videos, literature etc without parental guidance. It is difficult to differ between fact and fiction and get priorities right. There needs to be more challenging opportunities to keep children busy especially during these long holidays. This would help to keep them from starting on a road of destruction/violence.

CHECK IN AT 6:30, IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS A RESOURCE PERSON TO GET THE RIGHT KIT

FACILITATOR'S ROLE

1. Relax and enjoy yourself. Remember to participate in the discussions.

2. Introduce yourself and allow time for the recorder to introduce him/herself to the group. You may want to encourage the group members to introduce themselves by first names only, however, some participants may not be comfortable with this and you should try to gauge their comfort levels when you first get together.

3. Review some of the ground rules for the discussion:
    1) All information is confidential (the recorder should explain that he/she is not recording any names),
    2) People should be encouraged to participate only to the extent that they are comfortable,
    3) It is not expected that there will be a consensus in the group. Differences are to be welcomed.
    4) The small group discussion is not intended to be an opportunity for participants to convince others that their perspective is the right one. It is an opportunity to share ideas and hear other perspectives.

4. Be sure to let everyone have an opportunity to speak - don't allow one or two to monopolize the conversation. At the same time ensure that people are comfortable and do not force any one to participate when they are not ready.

5. Your primary role is to help people feel comfortable and to stay focused on the questions at hand. If there is a slight deviation thank the person for their interest and response and redirect the group back to the question at hand.

6. If a person chooses to share a personal story allow the person to share to a comfortable point and then encourage that person to spend time talking with one of the designated support people. The support people will be available during the small group discussion time and at the end of the evening. Thank the person for their courage and trust in you and the group.

7. Allow time during and at the end of the discussion for the recorder to review and clarify any responses and to summarise key points. We suggest about 10 min. for question 1, 40 min for question 2, and 10 min. to review.

8. Meet with the recorder at the end of the discussion to decide on the key points which are to be written down on the index cards and which will be fed back to the large group during the evening.

CHECK IN AT 6:30, IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS A RESOURCE PERSON TO GET THE RIGHT KIT

RECORDER'S ROLE

1. Relax and enjoy yourself. Remember to participate in the discussions.

2. Introduce yourself as the group recorder reminding people that you will be writing down as many responses as possible to the discussion questions. Stress that YOU WILL NOT BE WRITING DOWN NAMES. This aspect of the discussion is confidential. If the group does introductions do not write down names.

3. Explain that there will only be a few points reported back during the evening but that the Committee will receive all the notes from the small the groups to consider as feedback.

4. Do not wait for there to be a consensus in the group before recording responses, we are looking for as much information as possible. If there is one point that the group does agree on or one in which there was a lot of controversy you may try to make note of that beside that point.

5. You will be summarizing long points and will likely have to use some of your own words to do that. Try to ensure that the same message is being conveyed and if you are unsure or if you need to clarify a point be sure to ask the person for assistance. The person will appreciate that you are trying to get it right.

6. If you can, please make a note of the make up of your group: such things as number in the group, gender, occupation, community. These should just be observations that you make, we do not expect you to ask these questions but if during the discussions you get a sense of the group make up you could make note of it.

7. Take time at the end of the discussion to clarify your notes with the group and summarize any key points.

8. Meet with the facilitator at the end of the discussion to decide on the key responses to each question which you will write down on the four index cards you will be given. These will be used by committee members to report back to the large group. You are to choose three words for question 1, and one key point for each subsection of question 2.

9. Make note of your group number on your sheets and index cards.

10. BE SURE TO GIVE TO THE PERSON IDENTIFIED YOUR NOTES AND INDEX CARDS AS SOON AS YOU FINISH YOUR DISCUSSIONS.

Section 4

Summary of Evaluations

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

EVALUATION FORM

Please take a few minutes to fill in this questionnaire. Your feedback will help us plan future events. Thank you.

1. **Did the consultation process meet the purpose of the evening?**

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
1. Were you comfortable with giving your ideas about family violence?	95%	2%	1%
2. Did you learn more about local activities on the issue of family violence?	75%	17%	3%
3. Did you learn more about the issue of family violence?	81%	14%	3%
4. Do you think the evening helped the community focus on the prevention of family violence?	89%	1%	6%

2 **How do you rate the consultation overall?** (Check one)

Excellent	44%
Good	53%
Neutral	1%
Poor	
Unsatisfactory	

3. **Please rate the following components of the consultation.**
(Circle appropriate number)

1 = Excellent
2 = Good
3 = Neutral
4 = Poor
5 = Unsatisfactory

	33%	54%	10%	2%	0%
1. Background information on the consultation.	1	2	3	4	5
	19%	47%	24%	4%	0%
2. Information on local activities.	1	2	3	4	5
	42%	45%	3%	2%	.2%
3. Setting the stage. (i.e. agreements, purpose, etc)	1	2	3	4	5
	55%	30%	2%	2%	.5%
4. Presentation on family violence.	1	2	3	4	5
	53%	38%	3%	2%	.7%
5. Small group discussion.	1	2	3	4	5
	28%	47%	7%	4%	.3%
6. General discussion.	1	2	3	4	5
7. Other ______________________	1	2	3	4	5

4. **Please rate the general organization of the event.**

Excellent	65%
Good	32%
Neutral	______
Poor	______
Satisfactory	______

5. **How did you hear about the workshop?** (Check more than one if relevant)

Flier	28%
Newsletter	12%
Church notice	22%
School notice	10%
Word of mouth	37%
Press Coverage	18%
Other (please specify)	12%

6. **How would you describe yourself?** (Check one or more)

Interested citizen	51%
Professional involved in family violence issues	29%
Member of a community organization (e.g. W.I., youth group)	25%
Resource person for the consultation (e.g. facilitator, recorder, etc)	26%
Other	8%

7. **Would you be interested in participating in any further activities about family violence (e.g. further training sessions, local community meetings, develop church programs, etc)?**

79% YES   3% NO   7% DON'T KNOW

Comments: ____________________

8. Name, address and phone number if interested in follow-up activities: (You can mail or phone this in later if you prefer to remain anonymous.)

9. Do you have additional comments or suggestions?

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Their task is to guide a public discussion on family violence.

For more information please contact:

Jill Lightwood
Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention
P O Box 2000
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
CIA 7N8
Telephone: (902) 368-4583

Section 5

Summary of Interest Group Presentations

LIST OF INTEREST GROUP CONSULTATIONS

INTEREST GROUP	DATE
Native Council	11 Feb 1991
Catholic Women's League	16 Mar 1991
Theatre P.E.I.	22 Mar 1991
Frank Bulger	25 Mar 1991
Youth Advisory Committee	26 Mar 1991
Association of Nurses for P.E.I.	3 Apr 1991
P.E.I. School Trustees Association	12 Apr 1991
P.E.I. Medical Society	16 Apr 1991
Alcohol and Drug Problems Institute	24 Apr 1991
Anderson House Staff	24 Apr 1991
Council of Labour	7 May 1991
Transition House Association	7 May 1991
National Association of Women & the Law	21 May 1991
Rape and Sexual Assault Crisis Centre	28 June 1991
Services for Adult Survivors	25 May 1991 & 17 July 1991
P.E.I. Guidance Counsellors Association	written

These notes are intended to be a summary of the presentations given by each interest group to the CCCFVP. The committee takes responsibility for the preparation of these notes and apologizes for any errors or omissions.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION
SUMMARY OF INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS

INTEREST GROUP

Native Council of P.E.I.
Graham Tuplin
37 Allen St, Charlottetown   566-3682

CONSULTATION

Feb 11, 1991
Native Council Offices
Jill, Sandy and Linda met with four representatives of the Native Council at a special meeting.

BACKGROUND

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Need for a holistic approach. See attached article on the medicine wheel for a guide.

Need for spiritual dimensions, healing - putting God at the centre.

Need to restore sense of community.

Revival of traditional ceremonies.

Links to cultural oppression of native people.

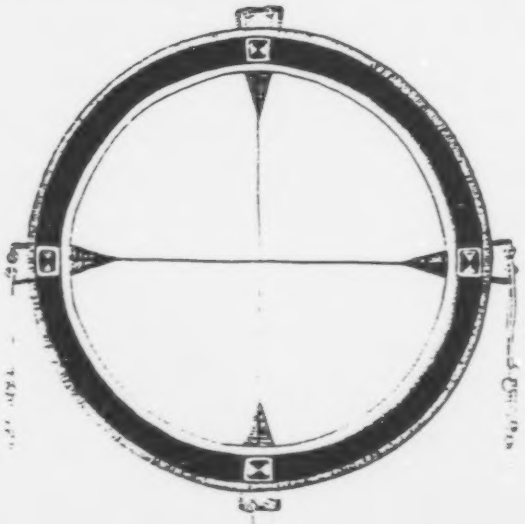
Links to abuse to experience at residential schools (see attached article).

Women and men can be victims.

Discussed the reality of wife assault, child and elder abuse in native community.

A Wholistic Approach

Today's "experts" have failed to tie economic development with growth in areas important to Native people like sobriety, education, and spirituality. Government has separated aspects of health into bureaus: one for housing, another for physical health, one for economic development, and another for alcohol abuse – as if they had nothing to do with each other. People have become just as divided. Some people believe economic development will solve community problems and motivate people toward health and recovery. Others say health must be accomplished before economic development. An increasing number of people are promoting the belief that both are necessary at the same time.



"They're both equally important," agrees Normie Trottier of NNADAP. "It doesn't make much sense to be working but not feel good. However, each person has their own system for bringing all these things together. My problems and my gifts are different from yours, so I need a different starting point than you. The same goes for communities. For balance it would be most helpful if people worked a little on all aspects of growth rather than focusing on one aspect. It's hard to have spiritual growth or learning if you are hungry, malnourished or in an abusive relationship.

Any lack affects the balance of the whole circle. If economic development isn't successful there's probably something lacking in other areas: emotional or spiritual and visa versa." Normie Trottier works in the area of emotional health but people in economic development are also beginning to agree.

"Ideally, balance is important," says Herb Schultz, central region director for the Native Economic Development Program. "Personal health and economic health affect each other. They're closely intertwined. You need a commitment to both at the same time." The problem is the wholistic approach to growth is seldom practiced.

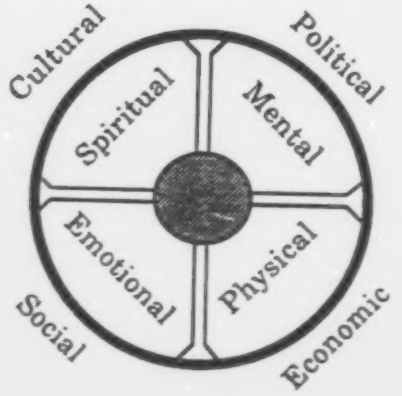
In traditional Native societies all things were known to be inter-related and inter-dependent. The clearest examples of this could be seen in nature. An insect is eaten by a frog, which is swallowed by a fish, which is caught by a fisherman. The man indirectly receives nourishment from the bug and the frog as well as the fish. He is dependent on all these living things.

Likewise, all aspects of a person – mental, spiritual, physical and emotional – are inter-related and necessary for nourishment of the whole self. One example of this is hunting. A successful hunter knows many facts about the animals he hunts; their habits, their signs, their calls, etc. But this is not enough, he also needs the physical strength to walk in the bush or over the tundra and then to haul the animal back to his family. He needs the patience and determination to track an animal, maybe for days. And he needs to be in touch with the spirit of the animal and the world around him if he is to find the right animal.

The same applies to other pursuits in our life. If we work at a job that makes us unhappy or causes us emotional stress, we get ulcers, heart attacks, even cancer. Dysfunctional thinking caused by unresolved emotional issues can prevent people from meeting their physical needs in a good and healthy way. If a community is crippled by emotions like hate, jealousy, anger and fear, how will it come together to meet its physical or economic needs in healthful ways? A person who is mentally undeveloped because of lack of education or teachings from his people will have more difficulty providing for his other needs.

And the same applies at the community level. When we talk about economic development from a wholistic point of view, we must also talk about political, social and cultural development. We now realize that lack of economic development contributes to social problems like drug and alcohol abuse and family violence. And lack of social, emotional or mental strength can lead to economic problems like unemployment and welfare dependency.

The relationship of mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual in the individual and the political, economic, social and cultural in the community can be demonstrated using the traditional medicine wheel:



An Old Path Rediscovered

"There are no real role models for wholistic economic development in the world. We don't want to emulate the white system. We've got to create more programs and establish opportunity for renewable resources," says Tagak Curley, former minister of economic development for NWT. That "new way" is being explored in several ways.

"Some people are trying to go back to the old way of life. But they're shutting out the world. Some reach for power in the white world but forget who they are. The best role models are the ones strong enough to work out there in the world and also preserve traditional values," explains a community development worker. The challenge will be to find a new way in spite of the temptation to take advantage of quick economic fixes. Many reserves have some form of resource to exploit like timber, uranium, coal, oil or copper. What the people do with these will be the real test of their inner values because exploiting such resources often forces people to choose between making a living and respecting Mother Earth and their own values.

The European-based idea of economic development just isn't providing people with what they need to be truly happy and in harmony with their environment. "And if you don't believe me, go ask a farmer about his land these days. Go ask somebody from Love Canal or Three Mile Island about their health. Go ask an Appalacian miner about his job and the benefits of transient, extractive industries," challenges Winona LaDuke, an Anishinabe activist. So where do we go for role models in a world that's on tilt and alarmingly out of balance?

Many elders and leaders point to the traditional Native idea of economic development. It

Shubenacadie, NS

Natives carry scars of residential school

BY MARY CAMPBELL

The Shubenacadic Indian Residential School was built in 1927. In those years, just before the Great Depression of the thirties, its official purpose was to provide food, shelter and education to orphaned and impoverished Micmac children.

What it actually attempted, according to Natives who survived the "Shubie School," was nothing short of genocide.

"It was assimilation," says George Paul of the PEI Native Council who spent six years at the school, "It had to do with breaking a people's spirit; division; separating people from their family."

Roddie Gould of Scotchfort, who spent two years at the school in the early fifties, agrees. The idea, he says, was to get young Micmacs off the reserves - and to keep them off. The irony of the situation, for Mr Gould, is that he wanted to go.

"How I came to go there," he says, "is that my brother was there and I asked if I could go too.

"I remember being in a truck going to the school, approaching the building. I remember the iron gates closed behind us and I experienced fear. I have known fear ever since."

Pictures of the Residential School show a bleak, brick building that wouldn't have been out of place in a Charles Dickens novel. A 1978 Micmac News article described the building (which has since been destroyed) this way:

"On a big hill it stands overlooking Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia, with an unparralled view of East Hants County. Oddly menacing, with 237 windows; piped with 114 radiators heated by a double boiler devouring as much as four carloads of coal every year."

Roddie Gould says there were bars on those windows when he was there, although they'd disappeared by the time George Paul became a student at the school.

The Residential School was run by priests, and nuns of the order of the Sisters of Charity. Survivors of the school say the priests and nuns were guilty of a whole range of abuses, referring to the tenure of one particular priest as a "reign of terror." It's a charge the Sisters of Charity deny, according to the Micmac News article, but Roddie Gould tells a different story.

He says he remembers the taste of floor soap - used to wash out his mouth for speaking Micmac. He remembers the leather straps used to administer beatings; straps, he says, that would have been better suited to horses than children. And he remembers a thing called the "river can."

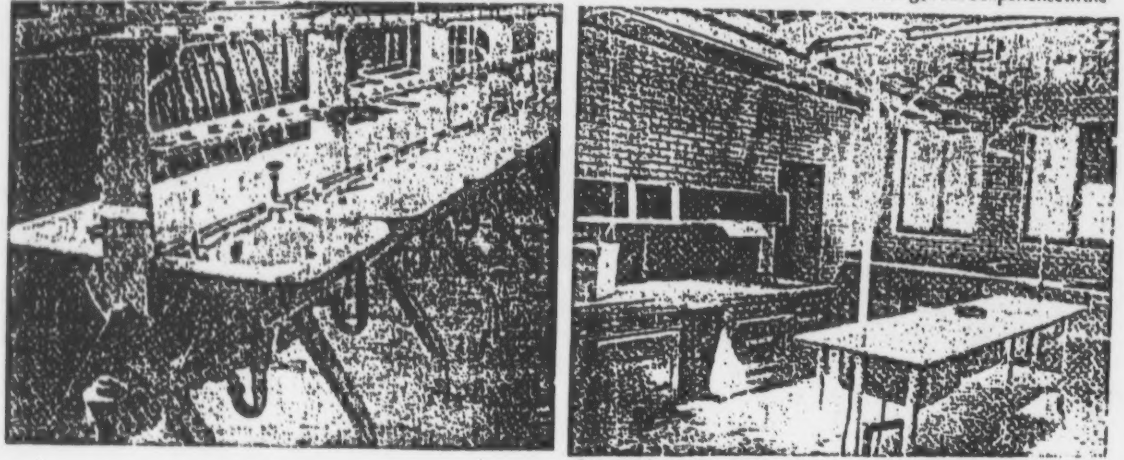
"It was a can the priests used to put their garbage in," he says, "and two students would have the job of dumping it in the river. We used to want that job because you could go through the garbage and sometimes find something to eat - a bone with a chunk of ham on it or something. I can remember eating meat out of the garbage."

Mr Gould also remembers an escape attempt made by his brother and three other boys. His brother, who returned of his own accord and two others, who were recaptured, had their heads shaved bald as a warning to the other students.

Roddie Gould says he left the school after his father came and spoke to one of the priests. He says the interview ended when the priest said Mr Gould and his brother could not be removed from the school and his father shoved the priest against the wall. Shortly afterward, Mr Gould's father had his welfare benefits cut and was visited by the RCMP who talked of charging him with assault.

Mr Gould says it was indicative of just how well connected the priests were - and what a Native was up against in trying to fight the system. His father did take the children from the school and moved the whole family to Boston where Roddie Gould would live for the next 22 years.

George Paul's experience in the



Interior shots of the Indian Residential School in Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia. The school was a home to many Island Micmacs during its years of operation.

Regimental

Residential school was somewhat different from Mr Gould's. He likens being in the Shubie School to being in the army. "Regimental" is the word he uses to describe life behind the red brick walls.

"The nuns and priests enforced high discipline," he says, "If you turned around and talked to someone in line-up you were strapped."

Line-ups were a big part of the daily routine at the school - lineups and prayer. Mr Paul says you began each day by kneeling

ing hall - girls on one side, boys on the other. Grace would be said before every meal, he says and followed by the sound of 170 chairs being pulled into the table, as 170 children sat in unison.

After eating, students could go for seconds ("But if you did the girls would laugh at you and call you 'gorby-gut,'" laughs Mr Paul) or go and wait in line-up for the others to finish.

After breakfast came classes, begun with the singing of "O Canada" and more prayers; religion, says Mr Paul, was "shoved down your throat."

Want apology

School was followed by a recreation period - which meant changing from school clothes to play clothes. These and Sunday clothes made up each students' wardrobe, and each outfit was to be worn at a particular time and for a particular purpose.

Students were permitted to go home in the summer, but visiting for two months was a far cry from living fulltime on the reservation, and the distance it put between students and their families was very real. George Paul says many Residential students never went back to their families. He also says this is exactly what those administering the school had in mind.

Roddie Gould says he believes the Catholic Church owes the survivors of the school an apology, but even as he says it, he seems to admit that such an apology could hardly undo the damage done by the school.

Says Roddie Gould, "That scar of how they treated me is still hurting and open."

Jerry McCormack's comment

Parade disappoints

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION
SUMMARY OF INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS

INTEREST GROUP

Catholic Women's League
Ruth Power 569-2319

CONSULTATION

March 16, 1991,
Charlottetown
Jill, Lorne, Steve and Brenda met with the C.W.L. Provincial Committee - 12 women and 1 man representing 49 councils across the Island with a total of 3500 members.

BACKGROUND

The C.W.L. has previously prepared briefs on pornography, Family Orders Enforcement Assistance Act, New Reproductive Technology, welfare payments and various other issues. (See names attached).

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Media violence raised as being relevant. Questioned to what extent family violence causes other violence or vice/versa. Noted violence in sports and "win at any cost" ethic.

Noted the violence in a recent publication of the child's book Pinocchio which was being distributed by a local gas station. Representative was going to contact the gas station to suggest they not distribute the book.

Violence in sports - violence embedded in our whole community way of life. Concept of "win at any cost" is destructive.

Education needs to be cooperative and teach conflict resolution. Need to teach young that violence is not acceptable.

Questioned what is the role of the church - the spiritual dimension. CWL can encourage clergy and parishes to get involved. Have to start discussion in small communities. Teach young people that violence is not acceptable.

See attached brief to CCCFVP dated July 25, 1991 as well as attached communique from CWL of Canada on Pornography.

Jill spoke at the PEI provincial council AGM, May 24, 1991 on family violence prevention.

Follow up comments include the need to discuss the concept of a guaranteed annual income to address poverty.

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ADDITIONAL NOTES C.W.L.

BRIEFS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST - C.W.L.

Family Orders Enforcement Assistance Act - to Wayne Cheverie.

New Reproductive Technology - To Royal Commission, from Ottawa - Oct 16, 1990.

Brief to Provincial Government on changes to benefit families receiving Welfare payments.

Brief to School system Review Commission 1984 - Leone Bagnall re learning disabilities.

Brief to Advisory Commission on Curriculum - Fred Driscoll 1981 re learning disabilities.

Child care - to Federal Government in Charlottetown.

RECEIVED AUG 7 1991

Community Consultation on Family Violence Prevention
Attention: Jill Lightwood
July 25, 1991

The Provincial Catholic Women's League of Canada is made up of 3590 members with Rev. Allan MacDonald, Director. It was organized in 1920. For seventy years the entire National League has been committed to spiritual and corporal works of mercy. In recent years the National Officers have presented resolutions to the Prime Minister and the Federal Cabinet.

The Provincial Council appreciates the opportunity to assist in helping remove the shocking evil of family violence. We wish to suggest the following recommendations:

1) More information through the media with an understanding reporter. If possible, victims should be made aware of available resources of help through the media.
2) The first assault on spouses should be reported immediately, as further attacks will follow regardless of promises, children will be harmed and terrified and in future may follow parent's example.
3) The perpetrator ought to be removed from the home to have children suffer the least possible trauma.

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4) As poverty contributes to family violence, our governments, federally and provincially, have a crucial task at this time to bring employment to our people. The needs of children and the protection of children are essential to their growth and future standards.

5) That the members of the League inform ourselves of available resources, to inform those in need.

All League members welcomed the statements by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, "To Live Without Fear". The National Council has long requested the Bishops to speak out on family violence. Women who are assaulted, first think of the parish house as a place of assistance or shelter. Clergy are now advised to study the best way to assist women in a violent situation. We realize that some churches have already faced this challenge and through their programs, we look forward to a better understanding of equality of men and women.

Our Director, Rev. Allan MacDonald, has suggested that we use our three fall conferences (one in each county) for workshops on family violence. With representatives from each parish council, some solutions should be forthcoming, especially for rural areas.

COMMUNITY LIFE - National resolution is to be submitted for approval at Annual Convention in Halifax - Aug 19 - 23

MB 91.41 COMMUNITY VIOLENCE

RESOLVED, that we ... become better informed and aware of the violence now existing in our society; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that:

1) we accept our responsibilities as members of the community by exploring possible preventative strategies and assisting in the implementation of some of them;

2) we familiarize ourselves with the Court Justice system and the methods used to deal with cases of violence;

3) we continue to urge the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops to hasten their initiative in training priests, deacons and parish staff to understand the syndrome of violence in all areas, so they are better prepared to respond to the needs of victims of violence;

4) we approach our elected MLA's to join us in our efforts to stamp out violence in our society.

Signed

Members of Committee

Ruth Power
Chairperson

Lorna MacDonald
Prov. President

Helen Turner National Spiritual convenor

Margaret Arthur - Prov Community Life

Margaret Fitzpatrick Prov Treasurer

Communique

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

April 26, 1991 Communique No. 4

TO: PROVINCIAL CONVENERS OF COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE (For Information)

FROM: NATIONAL SUB-CONVENER - PORNOGRAPHY

In our quest for means to combat the infiltration of pornographic materials in our Canadian society the three brass monkeys whose message is "Hear No Evil, See No Evil, Speak No Evil" will not inspire us. How can we escape hearing and seeing the insidious evil of pornography? The scourge has permeated our T.V.'s, videos, magazines, newspapers, movies, lyrics, art, and even our little children's comic books. Our eyes and ears have to be open to be fully cognizant of this foe of decency. To cover our mouths in this situation is to acknowledge defeat or worse - apathy. We will speak no evil, but we must speak out loud and clear against evil.

People recognize the dangerous effects pornography is having on our youth, family life and our culture. Yet, we have no government legislation to curb the production and/or distribution of obscene material to which we, and especially our young people, are unwittingly or otherwise exposed.

Our Catholic Women's League has always been foremost in urging the Government to enact and enforce laws against pornography. I am confident that many letters of support for our Resolution 90.10 Pornography Legislation have been sent to the Honourable Marcel Masse, former Minister of Communications. I would also suggest that we encourage all Councils and individual members to lobby government officials by writing to the Prime Minister, the Rt. Honourable Brian Mulroney; Honourable Kim Campbell, Minister of Justice; Liberal Leader, Honourable Jean Chretien; New Democratic Party Leader, Honourable Audrey McLaughlin and the Members of Parliament who are their representatives. We must inundate their offices with our letters expressing our grave concern regarding pornography, and insist that they take action against it. The pornography industry is a powerful and wealthy one, but we can have an effect on the lawmakers if we make a concerted effort.

We can interest other concerned citizens in our community to speak out by having open workshops, or seminars, to which professional speakers against pornography are invited to address the subject.

cont'd .....

The White Ribbon Campaign is a marvellous propaganda exercise in which all CWL Councils and other citizens who want to support anti-pornography could take part. Information on Campaign 1991 will be forthcoming.

It would be interesting to know how many Provincial Governments have guidelines regarding the sale of pornographic materials, and have other restrictions that may be in place regarding pornography. I would appreciate receiving that information.

The Canadian Coalition Against Media Pornography is dormant. The Coalition will decide whether or not to reactivate in the near future and that will depend on whether or not the Government decides to address the issue.

If ads or articles in magazines are offensive to you, let the firms, the advertisers, or the editors know.

God Bless You!

Caroline M. Ball

Caroline M. Ball
P.O. Box 424
Grand Falls, NF
A2A 2J8

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION
SUMMARY OF INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS

INTEREST GROUP

Theatre P.E.I.
Ron Irving
550 University Ave, 566-0424

CONSULTATION

March 22, 1991,
McMillan Bld, Charlottetown
Jill, Lorne and Kathleen met with two representatives of Theatre P.E.I. at a special Meeting.

BACKGROUND

In the early 80's Theatre P.E.I. was involved in the production of "Dream Girls" dealing with battered women.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Should make use of theatre in raising awareness on family violence.

Gives a voice to victims and survivors.

Theatre is an important educational tool. It has strong impact but needs to be accompanied with discussion time. Useful in schools and in communities.

Some initiatives are happening across the country (NWT).

Direct involvement can help victims break their own cycle - very empowering.

Theatre can be used in many ways. It can be used to stimulate and focus discussion, or can be used as a process in itself. It can involve a variety of forms from role play to scripted plays and, it can focus on various subtopics.

Theatre can break through denial by exposing the reality of family violence as well as society's predilection to cover-up or hide the facts.

In summary, theatre can be a powerful way to create positive change.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION
SUMMARY OF INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS

INTEREST GROUP

Frank Bulger
c/o Charlottetown Courthouse, 368-6056

CONSULTATION

March 25, 1991,
Beach Grove Home, Charlottetown
Mr Bulger attended a regular meeting of the CCCFVP.

BACKGROUND

Frank is a family court counsellor but was simply representing himself in his presentation. He is also one of the founders of Turning Point.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Concern raised about male victims of violence. He believes that we will learn more about these victims in the future.

Need to provide services to victims and offenders, these services should not need to compete with each other.

Continue with efforts and public education particularly to overcome the stigma attached to being a victim of family violence.

" In order to help others heal, the provider of services must have examined their values on the issues in this area and must be emotionally healthy and free of anger and hostility which is so often seen in providers of this service."

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ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM FRANK BULGER

COMMENTS ON THE DISCUSSION PAPER, THE PREVENTION OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

Men can be victims of spousal assault. Wanted this to be addressed specifically.

Page 6: "Abusive power" - women over men should be stated.

Page 7: Men need support - this is a real issue which we will hear more about.

Page 9: Second paragraph, programs for offenders should not compete with programs for survivors, both need treatment.

Page 11: " In order to help others heal, the provider of services must have examined their values on the issues in this area and must be emotionally healthy and free of anger and hostility which is so often seen in providers of this service."

Page 14: Need to decrease stigma associated with reaching out for help of any kind. In the system we assume everyone knows where to go for help. We need to continue public education. The stigma for reaching for any kind of help needs to be addressed.

The climate does not exist for male victims to be able to disclose violence. Men are a long way from organizing themselves such as women have done with transition houses. Not sure that is the way to go for men. Believe men have to get involved in these issues.

Feel service providers need more training and sensitivity to deal with issues of male victims.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

SUMMARY OF INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS

INTEREST GROUP

Youth Advisory Committee
Gwyn Davies,
T.H.A. c/o 81 Prince Street, Charlottetown, 368-8658

CONSULTATION

March 26, 1991
Smith Green Offices, Charlottetown
Brenda, Jill, Steve and Linda met with entire Y.A.C. and Gwyn Davies at a special meeting of Y.A.C.

BACKGROUND

This was a group of high school students working with Transition House Association to develop an education program about family violence for youths.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

No one wants to talk about violence - stigma attached, the Island is a small place.

Education is needed right from elementary school in traditional form as well as Peer education.

Kids need someone to talk to who is not "in the System" but who will keep confidential. A good guidance counsellor could be effective.

Groups like this could be talking to professionals and government about needs of kids.

High school and Junior high kids need separate places.

Peer pressure is very high. Lot of violence among kids and people on the streets.

Noted abuse from teachers in form of degrading names and emotional abuse.

See teachers as turning their backs on violence they see.

"IT IS EASY TO HIDE FROM SOMEONE WHO IS NOT LOOKING."

Youth need to have a voice.

...2

There is a lot of peer pressure, once one leader says violence is cool, everyone follows. Some kids feel there is nothing else to do except fight.

Opinion given that if you tell someone to stop pestering you and they continue they are responsible for your loss of self-control. They don't know how to deal with this type of interaction. Kids will usually accept feedback especially from other teens.

Suggestion that once there has been abuse in a family the women should leave because she knows there is potential for further abuse.

Elder abuse has not been discussed but they acknowledge that it happens.

Role of the church - may be helpful for some people, not likely to be the first place to go for help. Would be good to include information in marriage courses.

Kids have to know there is a place of safety and how to get there. There needs to be more services for kids by kids. Need personal stories. Need to know it is okay to ask for help. Need early education through peer programs as well as traditional methods.

Do not feel that individual teens can do a lot but feel that groups like this could talk to social workers and government to provide information on what's needed.

There is no safe place for kids. Group homes, foster homes and unit 9 are not considered safe. Some youth experience violence (sexual abuse mentioned in particular) in these settings.

ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM YAC

A good range of ideas about what family violence is.

This issue is not something that generally comes up in conversation. If it does, it is usually of a general nature, not disclosure.

Emotional abuse needs to be made more open. Kids don't know who they can trust. Kids will lean on consistent attention even if it is negative, rather than no attention or non-consistent positive attention.

Education through peers, television and school. Doesn't need to be scary. Noted effectiveness of the fried egg commercial for drugs. Need to start when young. Grade 10 family life program talking about it. Believe should start in elementary school.

Big fear of children that they won't be believed. Study shows parents believe spouses rather than kids.

Talking about family violence is taboo. Kids are embarrassed, supposed to be perfect. Have to know it's not their fault. Need to know it's more common than they think so that they will not be embarrassed.

Some of the kids have friends who are victims. They say it is easy to hide from people who are not looking. Noted teachers turn their back when they observe violence in the schools.

Differing views on use of corporal punishment. Some say it is discipline not abuse.

See adults as wanting to control and be in possession of the power. Youth want to be treated with respect. Have seen emotional abuse from teachers in the form of humiliation, name-calling, etc.

The alcohol involvement poses problems ie. hard to remember details for case. Sees peer education as important. Kids need to know how to help their friends.

Kids are the "generation of present" not "generation of the future". Even in the early grades kids are aware/ exposed to violence.

PEI Youth Council is trying to set up a place for kids to go - teen club. 13 - 19 year olds have nothing to do. Younger kids do have some activities. Club needs to have a good reputation. There is a need to separate junior high and high school kids.

Kids need someone accessible to talk to who will keep confidentiality. The system is seen as too big. Guidance counsellors may be useful.

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COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION
SUMMARY OF INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS

INTEREST GROUP

Association of Nurses for P.E.I. (A.N.P.E.I.)
Marie Walsh
17 Pownal Street, Charlottetown 368-4530

CONSULTATION

April 3, 1991
Association of Nurses Offices 17 Pownal Street, Charlottetown
Jill Sandy, Kathleen and Brenda met with Family Violence Committee: Jeannita Bernard, Elaine Rieber, and Marie Walsh during one of their regular meetings.

BACKGROUND

A.N.P.E.I. has recently formed this committee to look into issues of family violence and how nurses can be involved to assist these families.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Nurses can play a vital role in prevention.

Varying levels of knowledge and discussion among nurses depending on their work setting.

Need more training for nurses perhaps through hospital training days.

Liability of reporting or not reporting is an issue. When is it necessary to report abuse other than child abuse? What does nurse do if wants to report and doctor does not agree?

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ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM ASSOCIATION OF NURSES OF PEI

The hospital protocol for PEI is dormant but contains many potential answers.

Concern over mandatory reporting of child abuse - what if the doctor does not support the nurse's decision?

Question - need to report other incidents of abuse (ex. knife wounds which may be wife assault). When does this need to be reported to the police?

The liability issue is a concern to nurses. This is a new area where the lid is just coming off.

Nurses, like other professionals, have had very little training on issues around family violence. Training could be included in school of nursing and as well during hospital in-service days. Contact would be made with the nursing education coordinator. Have to educate hospital administrators and discuss the legal implications.

Positive response to asking nurses to complete attitude survey.

Varying philosophies - conflict can become the focus; exploring our differences; naming the issues; question professional readiness and how threatening the issues are.

Amount of dialogue among nurses depends on the setting - home care and support/adult protection have to deal with it a lot. Public health nurses see most families. Different points of view in hospitals. The school of nursing does have a section on child abuse.

The nurses noted a Quaker program which deals with men who batter while they are in the penitentiary.

An issue that is surfacing elsewhere is that of abuse by physicians.

Need to address sex role stereotyping.

Public Health Nurse can play a vital role in prevention - see nearly all pregnant women, babies and small children.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION
SUMMARY OF INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS

INTEREST GROUP

P.E.I. School Trustees Association (STA)
Jeannie Lea, President
Elaine Noonan, Executive Director
3 Queen Street, Charlottetown, 368-5027

CONSULTATION

April 12, 1991
Charlottetown
Sandy, Kathleen, Lorne, Jill, Eileen and Brenda met with 6 members of the education and curriculum committee of the provincial school trustees association.

BACKGROUND

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Need for social workers to be available in the school.

Support for mandatory family life programs which offer information on family violence.

Support for better interagency cooperation.

Support for churches and communities to get involved with these issues.

More public education is needed.

Public counsellors should be available throughout the province to provide assistance to people before problems get to serious.

There is a concern that the Department of Justice "dumping" kids on the doorstep of the school when they get in trouble.

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ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM SCHOOL TRUSTEES

See attached.

Kindergarten is important. Lack of supervision over tv, watching violence will result in a change of behaviour.

Need emphasis in education on building self esteem.

Use pre-marriage and parenting courses.

Lack of access to daycare may be relevant factor as girls must leave school and stay away in some cases due to lack of facilities for their children.

Referred us to Unit Two "Youth At Risk" report.

School trustees have a role in advocating for a policy for training for teachers on talking, safety, support, and information. Need a policy for students and teachers to talk without fear. Education is needed on what to do with information and there needs to be a comfort level to deal with it properly. See a need for professional development workshops to provide information on identifying violence and increasing sensitivity and comfort levels. Teachers also need conflict resolution skills. The school trustees do not have direct input into the schools but have directors of school boards on the trustees association. School boards could encourage psychologists to access resources.

Support use of peer models.

Need more interagency cooperation. Social workers are not allowed in the schools without a degree in education. This means referring out of the school which could lead to increased stigma. Let social workers deal with social problems and guidance counsellors deal with education problems.

Question was raised about liability of teachers in restraining children who are out of control. Noted a recent incident where a child bit and scratched a teacher in grade five.

Feel family life program should be mandatory. Since the children have to opt into the program many will not take the program because of peer pressure. Recognized that including family violence section is a loaded topic but feel school trustees should support that part of the program.

See a need for public counsellors. A lot of people need a little support. Need someone to talk to before it gets too bad. This type of service may help remove stigma.

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Recognize churches have been part of the problem but now need to be part of the solution. Churches are often frustrated because they are not being used as a source of support.

Doing conflict resolution programs with kids can help you get connected to the parents. Need non-threatening neutral people to do this work. Need to give support to the school to allow time for dealing with coping skills.

Concern was raised over trouble people have not knowing who to call or not getting help when they do call. Need a "non-authority" person that could be called by anyone. These are roles that the community can get involved in. People need to be able to get help before a crisis evolves.

Asked for guidance as to the role for STA in prevention.

Teachers feeling overwhelmed with all the demands to deal with social problems.

Need professional development workshops to keep identifying abuse and to become sensitive to and more comfortable discussing the issue.

SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Discussion on Family Violence Prevention

It was agreed to ask Jill Lightwood co-ordinator of the Committee to join us for our next meeting.

There was agreement that efforts must be geared toward prevention as opposed to only reparative efforts.

More inter agency cooperation and sharing of services and resources has to take place. In some instances responsibility for delivery of services may not be understood.

If more money was invested at the early stage of the education of a child, perhaps it would be money well spent.

For example providing kindergarten and lowering the pupil teacher ratio at Grades 1 and 2 would allow for earlier and easier detection of problem children or at risk children.

The provision of parenting courses for all parents should be considered. The familial role must be enhanced.

The role of the church and the community must be supported.

It is a problem of attitude and acceptance, and education is the key to changing attitudes to what is morally right and wrong and what is unacceptable behaviour in society. More emphasis on building self-esteem is important.

People must be taught the importance of respect for people and property.

Family Life programs should be mandatory at elementary and junior high schools.

We believe the Government decision to allow "opting in" to Family Life Programs was a mistake.

Public counsellors should be available throughout the province where people can go for advice or support.

Perhaps "violence" is viewed in too narrow a context "limited to physical assault" in some peoples minds.

Continued and constant pressure must be used in making everyone aware of the importance of each individual and their rights. It will take many, many years before we will notice any improvement.

March 19,1991

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COMMENTS ON THE DISCUSSION PAPER ON PREVENTION OF FAMILY VIOLENCE
BY
EDUCATION AND CURRICULUM COMMITTEE OF P.E.I.S.T.A.

The committee agreed that efforts must be geared toward prevention of family violence as opposed to only reparative efforts. Early identification of children at risk, supported by necessary resources and programs would lessen much of the pain and violence experienced, as well as assisting them in becoming a more acceptable part of the community. Kindergarten, lower pupil/teacher ratio, increased financial support for program and human resources in the educational system are all factors which could lessen family violence. More money spent in prevention would result in less money spent by Social Services, Department of Education, and Justice System in dealing with crisis situations for these youth later in life.

Greater inter-agency co-operation and sharing of services and resources has to take place. Since Guidance Counsellors within the school system devote many hours with students dealing with behavioural problems, it would be more appropriate to have Social Workers within the school - to be a part of that school - to assist in behaviour problems - less stigma would be attached to recommending Social Worker, if that person was on staff at the school. Justice system should not"sentence" youth to attend school - appropriate programs and resources should be available within the school system to accommodate these students.

Family Life programs should be made mandatory for Junior and Senior high students. We believe the "opting in" to the sexuality component of the program should be changed to "opting-out".

The role of the church and community should be supported, they could sponsor parenting programs, marriage preparation, marriage enrichment programs, etc. The community also plays a vital role in reporting cases of family violence, as well as offering support for victims.

Public counsellors should be available throughout the province where people can go for advice or support. The victims need encouragement and support before the situation becomes too serious to repair the damage. Support groups, based on A.A. model should be encouraged through out the communities.

The general public should be educated as to what "Family Violence" entails - that it not be limited only to physical or sexual assault, and become more aware of possible victims within the community - alert youth at risk, as to what is unacceptable behaviour, what is morally right and wrong, with more emphasis on building self-esteem, to enable them to be strong enough not to accept abuse, as the price for intimacy in a relationship.

Continued and constant pressure must be used in making everyone aware of the importance of each individual and their rights. It will take many, many years before we will notice great improvement.

Jeannie Lea, President

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION
SUMMARY OF INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS

INTEREST GROUP

P.E.I. Medical Society
Marilyn Lowther, Executive Director
559 North River Road, Charlottetown   368-7303

CONSULTATION

April 16, 1991
Medical Society Offices
Jill and Sandy met with Maternal and Child Health Committee at their regular meeting.

BACKGROUND

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Social context of violence.

Systems response fragmented.

Need more information and training.

See attached copy of resolution passed in June 1991.

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ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM MEDICAL SOCIETY

Need to be sensitive to issues of cultural differences. This gets problematic when there is a thin line between violence and discipline of children.

Community attitudes can support or challenge violence. Need a changing attitude to violence - analogy made to impaired driving.

Behaviours are entrenched. Changing sex roles. Parents need support for parenting role. Issue of dating violence noted.

Difficult for battered women to leave violent situations.

Children sometimes show signs of living with violence.

Linkage of violence with drug and alcohol abuse.

Cycle of violence sometimes repeated in subsequent relationships.

Pregnancy time of high risk and time that intervention can occur.

Schools need more in curricula, in service days and role modelling.

Doctors look for cues of violence and create a climate where disclosure can occur. Abuse is not always obvious - ex. child sexual abuse showing up as "bellyache". Elders are afraid to name abuse. Reluctance based on fear of loosing what you have. Aware of financial exploitation.

Reluctance of patients to use formal system (eg police, child protection).

We have fragmented the problem (eg medical, legal, social, etc.) The system can be abusive.

Discussion about police charging policy on wife assault. Doctors want clarity of police role, support heavier penalties. Need information on individual cases - eg what happens if report case to child protection, no feedback or cooperation.

Doctors want and need more information about family violence. Annual general meeting seen as a chance to bring forward a resolution to use clinical days as a place for education.

Discussion of hospital protocol - no follow through on this document.

REPORT OF THE MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH COMMITTEE

Members of the Maternal & Child Health Committee for 1990-91 were Dr. Ellen Wood, Chairperson; Dr. Lewis Abbott, Dr. Shelagh Connors, Dr. Geraldine Johnston, Dr. Barbara Flanagan, Dr. David Wong and Dr. Frank MacDonald. Gloria Peters sat on the Committee representing the Public Health Department. The Committee met four times throughout the year. Our Committee was approached for information from various groups including the Department of Public Health regarding the revision of Baby Help. We also supported legislation presented by the P.E.I. Council on Smoking and Health. The Department of Health & Social Services has involved Dr. Richard Doan to do research on a child sexual abuse project being set up by the Canadian Mental Health Association. We provided information to him regarding problems with reporting of suspected abuse cases. As well, I as Chairperson, sat on a Committee of the Department of Health & Social Services on Teenage Pregnancies. We had a presentation from members of the Community Consultative Process on Family Violence.

Our Committee has developed two resolutions throughout the year that we would like to present to the Annual meeting.

RECOMMENDATION 1.

The Maternal & Child Health Committee resolves that information be given to families regarding the importance of donation of organs from children. Further, that this information should be part of the packet presented by the Medical Society during transplantation week.

RECOMMENDATION 2.

The Maternal & Child Health Committee resolves that a Clinical Day be held through the Medical Society dealing with the extremely important topic of family violence. Further, that members of the Community Consultative Process Against Family Violence as well as members of the Department of Psychiatry, Social Work, Justice, RCMP etc be involved in this day.

This is my last year as Chairman of this Committee. Dr. Barbara Flanagan has graciously accepted the nomination to be next years Chairperson.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Wood, M.D. FRCP,
Chairperson
Maternal & Child Health Committee

MED. SOCIETY Annual MTG
JUNE /91

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION
SUMMARY OF INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS

INTEREST GROUP

Alcohol and Drug Problems Institute (ADPI)
Shirley Beck, Chair
Daphne Trainer, Secretary
368-4026, 894-3544

CONSULTATION

April 24, 1991,
ADPI offices
Brenda, Jill, Sandy, and Kathleen met with eight members of the Board of Directors at their regular Board Meeting.

BACKGROUND

ADPI provides alcohol and drug counselling and treatment programs in Queens County.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Suggested use of Intervention Model to break down denial and get people involved in family violence into treatment.

Recognize need to deal with both issues of addiction and violence at the same time, however, do need to get through the acute stages of withdrawal before dealing with other issues (this is usually one to two weeks).

Prevention education directed at children and parents considered useful.

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ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM ADPI

Experience and studies show violence and alcohol are separate issues. After the initial, acute phase of treatment, ADPI will try to deal with both issues. Noted need to deal with these issues with men during treatment due to the waiting list at Turning Point.

It is no longer believed that violence is simply the result of alcohol abuse, although the lowering of inhibitions due to alcohol may be a factor.

Attendance at groups like AA and Alanon give some ability to people to speak about themselves and these issues.

See a need for services and groups to deal with issues of anger when it doesn't fit into Turning Point or other psychiatric programs.

Reference was made to a program in the States (CASPAR, Cambridge, MA) which helps women work on these issues. This program requires a 2 to 5 year sobriety. This is the normal time allowed but exceptions are made in specific circumstances. ADPI waits 6 to 12 months in order to allow the women to get a handle on their recovery and shortly thereafter help to work through the abuse.

Talked about victims of violence becoming addicted to alcohol. How does this fit the disease model? Answer: it is part of the genetic, environmental, and psycho-social influences of the disease.

If community agencies were more alert to addictions intervention there may be more ability to reduce risks of certain groups. People need help to recognize signs and symptoms. Beneficial for anyone to be exposed to addictions treatment philosophy. If the general public knew more they could identify factors, take part and help people get into treatment.

Cooperation and coordination is important. Need to have someone to reach out to. Services tend to focus on their own services programs and problems with resources. Find that some programs that would be appropriate are often without stable funding.

Staff are getting a lot of information regarding family violence, spousal assault, elder abuse, dating violence and adolescent abuse, etc. Noted that sometimes silence can be abuse. Discussion Paper, guiding principal number 3 - violence is to include all forms of abuse.

Causes of violence - anger within perpetrator, behaviour and attitudes towards anger all have a role. Need to learn self-control.

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Prevention - family living courses at school should deal with it but also need good role models. Need to look at what families are teaching their kids. Example children being disrespectful to mom - what is he learning? Who's going to teach self-control to this child? There is a need for parenting supports and service providers have to risk being disliked to talk to a parent about where their kids are headed.

Influences of society, tv, movies, etc. raised as an issue. Can we use tv in a positive way? Kids have a critical mind that they can use.

There is a feeling that most addiction staff are properly orientated and have a good referral system. ADPI deals primarily in the acute stage (about a month's duration) and the addict needs to get through that before going on to other services, therefore, during that time there may be a low referral rate to other agencies. During the after care stage referrals are more likely.

Believe addictions intervention model can apply to violence using a similar structure. Interventions are considered to be 90 - 95% effective in breaking down denial and getting the person into treatment.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION
SUMMARY OF INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS

INTEREST GROUP

Anderson House Staff
Yvonne Bradshaw,
81 Prince Street, Charlottetown 368-8658

CONSULTATION

May 2, 1991,
Voluntary Resource Council
Brenda, Sandy, Jill, Lorne attended Anderson House staff meeting.
Eight staff present.

BACKGROUND

Anderson House provides emergency shelter and crisis line service to women (and their children) who have been abused by their partners.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Concern about lack of resources, financial and people, to adequately deal with violence issues. Concerns raised about support not being sufficient at Unit 9.

Concern over the way media deals with family violence situations.

Need for consistent policies to deal with women in crisis.

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ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM ANDERSON HOUSE STAFF

Concern about the media reporting violence and naming victims. Suggestion that we speak to media as a special interest group. Media attention may prevent women seeking help even if names are not reported. Question whether media reports what they think people want to hear and should we be sending new messages to the press. Concern about sensationalism and not checking their facts.

Concern raised about Unit 9. Staff are seeing that the needs of women there are not getting met. Concern about waiting list. Attitude appears to be that staff don't ask questions because they don't have time to deal with the answers.

There are people who are willing to help that need training and assistance.

We still don't realize the true volume of family violence.

Staff raised issues around systematic violence - the role of government. Are the appropriate systems in place?

Need a way to cross check government policies. Concern was raised about social services referring to second stage housing. The social service policies in place may not be appropriate. Sandy will check into the particular policy question about housing referrals raised in this discussion.

Concern about involving community in that you have no control over how communities respond. Second and third party referrals can cause further abuse.

Seems to be acceptance of the idea of a central phone line or general crisis line for violence issues. Staff vocalize support for public health nurses and use of the pre-marriage courses.

There is a problem getting into the schools. There is a need to revamp the system to allow education about violence to be part of the curriculum. As well, need better role models in the school.

Need to teach conflict resolution to students and teachers.

We can not continue to give mixed messages such as cheering violence at sports events for example and then saying not to hit people. Young children can't sort out between reality and fantasy especially if their reality is one of violence.

Staff noted that in Toronto teens presented a role play of a date rape. It was shown seven times and on five occasions someone shouted "hit her" when it got to "the point of no return".

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Question how we make people aware when there have been a lot of efforts on awareness and so many people are still saying they don't know. Suggestion that information be provided at places of employment, via church community etc.

Noted that they receive very few referrals from Eastern Kings and yet they believe that there is violence in this community. They wonder if violence is so entrenched that everyone feels guilty and responsible and they won't seek help. It was noted that there used to be an apartment for women in Souris but it was not safe and is no longer available.

There is still a lot of self-blame among women. Concern that women won't get support right through the process is a barrier to women. The stigma is still there but it is lessening.

Anderson House is being seen as more than just a residential service. Employers and fathers are starting to call for more information.

Staff do not see women leaving relationships earlier. The average stay at Anderson House is increasing to between 10 and 21 days but women are then setting up independently and staying away from their partners. The women who do go back to their partners usually end up back at the house.

Seen more increase in cultural differences. Difficulty with social services and immigration, ie who pays? The information given to immigrants about services depends on their background. Find it is hard to get interpreters and most are men. Staff find it difficult to deal with different child-rearing values and cultural differences.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION
SUMMARY OF INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS

INTEREST GROUP

Council of Labour
Harold Dolan
25 Kensington Court
Charlottetown, P.E.I. C1A 8K4 566-3255

CONSULTATION

May 7, 1991,
Beach Grove Home
Mr Dolan attended CCCFVP committee Meeting.

BACKGROUND

Harold is a lawyer working for the Public Service who has been seconded to the Council of Labour. The Council represents 11 Trade Unions in the Private sector. Harold came on behalf of the Council of Labour to express their position on Family Violence. He is hoping to have the opportunity to make a policy statement and/or resolution at upcoming conventions.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

The issue of family violence is important and should be high on every groups' agenda.

The Council recognizes interim needs of shelter etc but in order to stop the cycle of violence need to stop the violent behaviour of the perpetrator. Supports such programs as Turning Point which deal with the offenders behaviour.

Men must become more vocal on issues of family violence.

It is necessary to show that the acts are criminal and we should not remove the criminal sanctions but must add to that treatment programs and changing attitudes.

Council may request speaker at their annual convention.

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ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM COUNCIL OF LABOUR (C OF L)

Role of C of L: Represent 11 trade unions. Deal with union executive not membership. Not able to do much training. Not going to be a focal driving point for change. Too bureaucratic but there is an opportunity to bring a message. Both the C of L and the Canadian federation of Labour have training opportunities for members. They could be encouraged to get info on this issue. Contact through Ottawa.

C of L only involved in Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) in a broad sense. Programs are developed by the unions as needs arise.

Harold could be requested to review a proposal. Domestic disputes are not part of any current EAP's on PEI.

Provided Harold with a copy of most recent VIS A VIS which relates to the workplace.

Thinks member groups would be interested in distributing information, however, unions are hesitant to get involved and take on the additional responsibility of referrals. Thinks would be more effective to go through the employer.

The majority of members in these unions are men. Interest did not initiate at the grass roots level.

Believes that most men find it abhorrent that the abuse is going on. Need those men to support and vocalize that they do not agree with the violence. As group consciousness raises so might that of the perpetrators with in the group. Have to reach men from within. May be easier for male members to hear and accept the message from men.

There is a difference in how men and women approach things. Women took initial steps and are very active with issue. Now men need to realize that change is needed - they are still at the acknowledgement stage - breaking the cycle is necessary.

Recognizes that workplace can also be a violent place. Perhaps advances in dealing with sexual harassment in the workplace could be adapted to deal with other violence.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION
SUMMARY OF INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS

INTEREST GROUP

Transition House Association

81 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P.E.I. 368-7337

CONSULTATION

May 7, 1991
Beach Grove Home
Patti Seres, Executive Director, Yvonne Bradshaw, House Manager, and Gwyn Davies, Child Services Co-ordinator, attended regular meeting of CCCFVP.

BACKGROUND

T.H.A. provide's shelter service, crisis line and public education on issues of violence against women by their partners.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Concern over conflict in policies of social services and THA.

Concern over media involvement.

Need to focus on children to break the cycle. Teaching is not enough, need role models in school and elsewhere.

Need for alternative dispute resolution for kids and adults.

Concern over lack of quality consistent services across the Island.

Need to look at cultural issues, patriarchal society, gender issues, systematic nature of violence, role of government with these issues.

Difficult to focus on prevention in climate of budget cuts.

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ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM TRANSITION HOUSE ASSOCIATION.

Acknowledge that CCCFVP is looking at prevention.

THA role in prevention issues decreased with funding cuts.

Concern with lack of front line input into Federal Initiatives. It is important to maintain focus on women and their pain and not to intellectualize. Keep the personal perspective.

Did not find Discussion Paper referred to women and kids as separate issues.

Need to look at cultural issues, patriarchal society, gender issues, systematic nature of violence, role of government with these issues.

Concern raised about Unit 9 at QEH. No time or resources to deal with issues of previous abuse. Give messages that you should talk but no time for anyone their to listen. There is believed to be a policy change - not to act about history of sexual abuse. Creates overload on community services.

Interested in looking at a way of having collective data on abuse. Recognition that many abused women never contact Anderson House. Agreement on definitions necessary. Need training standard.

Case management approach favoured - bring all players together to problem solve to the advantage of the child, keep up communication with family, etc.

Need different kind of delivery service, assembly line process not appropriate. Case workers too busy.

"Super grandma" and "super mom" great way for community to support.

Discussion of second stage housing and new referrals direct from Social Services. Concern that women would be treated differently depending on where the referral came from. Also concern that social services policy of verifying situation with husband would violate the need for security of the woman. Questions were raised as to whether this was the policy or the implementation of the policy. Also issue raised re attitude of workers, psychological safety, manipulation of workers by offenders, etc. What directions are provided down the line to workers? Sandy indicated that she would raise this issue with the Interministerial Committee. There is a need for consistent policies.

Concern was raised over the media involvement in family violence cases. Indications were made that some women will not involve the police as they know their names will be published. Media need to be responsible/ accountable.

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The community is asking for more quality services than just Anderson House and wants services in place now within their communities. Safe houses have been discussed but there is a concern that these houses are not safe.

Equality of access to service is important. Talked about possibility of a mobile service involving supports, resources, child advocates and supports for the caregivers. Yvonne was given information on Naomi Society of Nova Scotia who have such a service.

Services need to be put in place for the children. Children should be seen as part of the dynamic of family violence rather than seeing children as "the problem." We need to stop managing kids and start relating to them. The schools need to take a more active role, however, academics are not enough. Role models need to be seen and alternative conflict resolution models need to be taught and used. There is a need to focus on kids to break the cycle. Need to break down sex role stereotypes and develop better communication skills. School is only one part of the solution. Need to combine with other parts of the community. Small group learning is beneficial.

Adults also need to learn conflict resolution.

A system where people working with kids can get together to discuss what they are doing and resources available would be useful. Need to identify resources and supports which go along with the solutions.

Public health nurses and clergy have initial role in prevention as they still visit the home.

Foster parents identified as people who are not provided with proper training regarding symptoms to look for, distress of the children and their parents, etc. Kids are not prepared to go out on their own at age 16. Better case planning is needed. When training is provided screening, follow up and support are also necessary. More communication between the natural and foster parents should be encouraged.

The crisis line has seen an increase in calls from women and as well from family needing support and information to help the victims. Need crisis intervention teams.

Some concern was raised over the community getting involved in providing services and support without having training. Often people with good intentions can do harm. They may fall back on previously learned helping skills such as a power over model which have worked in the past but do not empower the victim. People at different stages of growth need caregivers with different skills.

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Caregivers should not be rescuing but should be empowering women to help themselves. Caregivers have to be aware of "burnout" potential.

Concern was also raised about the wait at the various services that exist now and how a women may not be able to get the help she needs when she needs it. Suggestion of a mutual aid type of system where the person would attend a few sessions with the "professional" and then get hooked up with a self help group or support system.

It was noted that the need for child care at Anderson House increases in the summer due to an increase in residency and school being out. It was felt that Anderson House should be guaranteed additional child care funding during the summer and the summer student should be earning more than minimum wage.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION
SUMMARY OF INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS

INTEREST GROUP

National Association of Women and the Law (N.A.W.L.)
Legal Education Action Fund (L.E.A.F.)
Daphne Dumont
57 Water Street, Charlottetown 894-5003

CONSULTATION

May 21, 1991
Charlottetown
Jill, Sandy, Linda, Brenda attended a regular meeting of N.A.W.L. and L.E.A.F.

BACKGROUND

Both of these group and their members are involvement in publications, briefs, court cases, etc.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

See a need for public education. There is power in knowledge. There is a need for information targeted at women who do go back to violent homes.

The legal system itself can be abusive and there is a need for legislative reform.

Professional training is needed. Lawyers are like other professionals on a spectrum in terms of their sensitivity to the issue of family violence.

Violence often precedes separation but since new Divorce Act courts do not consider it to be relevant. Women often experience more violence going through the legal system. They are going through legal service while in crisis emotionally. Women need to be better prepared before seeing lawyer.

Victims often face several major issues simultaneously (i.e. finances, custody).

Costs of family violence to society are very high.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION
SUMMARY OF INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS

INTEREST GROUP

P.E.I. RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS CENTRE
Lyle Brehault
P.O. Box 1522, Charlottetown, 566-1864

CONSULTATION

JUNE 28, 1991,
McMillan Building, Charlottetown, P.E.I.
Brenda, Jill, Sandy, Kathleen, Lorne, Linda met with Lyle Brehault Co-ordinator and Ann Nicholson - President at a special meeting.

BACKGROUND

Rape and Sexual Assault Crisis Centre provides 24 hour support to victims of sexual assault and harassment as well as public education on these issues.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Prevention must involve education and support for young people.

Questions were raised as to the effectiveness of treatment programs for offenders. Need to follow up to see what is really happening after counselling. Need for evaluation. Try not to raise unrealistic expectations. Needs to be long term treatment. Mandatory counselling not as effective as voluntary but does have a role. Should have different expectations.

Don't cut from services for survivors to fund offender programs.

Working with survivors is prevention. See a lot of recurring abuse. Need to intervene. Adolescent offenders are often victims or witnesses to abuse. Need healthy sex education.

Need to raise consciousness of lawyers and judges. Should victim have own representation?

Difficult to quantify costs. Many people in health care and welfare systems are not identified as victims of violence.

Need training for social service workers. They are saying they do not have enough. Also need more time and money. Need time to allow kids to speak.

CCCFVP is "Best initiative by government that I've ever seen": Lyle.

See attached presentations.

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ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRE

General literature shows that there is an ineffectiveness of treatment programs for sex offenders/batterers. This often increases danger for women who are expecting a change in behaviour based on the program.

Thinks judges believe that problems are solved through counselling and place too much weight on that factor.

A jail sentence tells man that actions are not acceptable. It is a statement. Need to show is more abhorrent than other crimes.

There is a concern about voicing problems with system because it may tell women it is not safe to report.

People are very angry and women are not going to refrain from actions to protect themselves.

Concern that justice system blames victim. Need more sensitivity to victims and protection from the possibility of revictimization. Should be dealt with differently from other property crimes in terms of both safeguards for the victim and more severe sentences for the offenders.

Believe school is a good tool. Guidance counsellors are impressive when they have the time/ resources.

Concern about attitude of some people working with children that they "can't touch (the children) for fear of false accusations".
Question raised as to: why think kids will lie
: is any touching appropriate?
: whether this indicates no respect for children. There is fear behind these statements.

If a child does report falsely there is likely something wrong somewhere.

Is difficult when both social services and police are involved. Balance between needs of kids and needs of police. Confusion in roles. Difficult to develop protocols because of different mandates and conflicting philosophies.

Support U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. Concerned about lobby against it as this may be based on a belief in the Mythical family where children are not at risk.

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Discussion re process of CCCFVP:

Found people knew very little and needed more.
Found somewhat frustrating for facilitator as did not feel as free to speak as if just in group.
See need for follow up.
Questions were directed at solutions - wanted to know what the problems were.
Format worked well.
It raised awareness of need to provide support.

"Best initiative by government that I've ever seen"   Lyle

PRESENTATION
TO

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE
ON
FAMILY VIOLENCE

JUNE 28, 1991

Lyle Brehaut
Co-ordinator
P.E.I. Rape & Sexual
Assault Crisis Centre

RAPE CRISIS AS PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE/ASSAULT

Up until, and including, the present vast numbers of every generation of women have been sexually abused as children and sexually assaulted as adults. They and others have experienced and are experiencing, these assaults on many levels ranging from being the butt of denigrating sexual innuendo, dirty jokes, pornographic pictures and stories, harassment, physical violence up to and including murder, and rape of any possible orifice by any number of objects of which a penis is only one.

And all of this is accepted, to some degree, as "normal" in our society.

Every time we, at Rape Crisis, tell a woman that this behaviour, that so diminishes her, so destroys her self-respect and her safety, is not acceptable, is not caused by something she did, is not being done to her alone, we empower her. As she becomes empowered, she will no longer tolerate abuse either for herself or for her children and ultimately she will not tolerate it for you or for your children.

Yes. Our work is about prevention.

Every time we, at Rape Crisis, address a group and point to the underlying attitudes in our society that encourage the abuse, we are empowering women toward change; we are empowering men of good will, who had previously not recognized violence against women as their problem, to act in their private lives and in their working lives to end it. And we are telling the abuser, if he is listening, that he must stop.

We might remind him, if he can hear, that at a recent national conference, sponsored by Canadian Mental Health Association, where Andrea Dworkin said we must give our support to the women who kill their abusers, that abuse must be stopped, she got a standing ovation.

Prevention of abuse is what we need. But we do not start with a clean slate. We have a large population of people who have already been abused, many of whom are now unable to protect themselves or their children. Will services be cut for them? When I hear about cutting services at the same time as I hear talk about prevention, my fears rise. And so I wonder what is planned.

I hear about strengthening the family as a way to prevent violence. We must be very sure that this does not become the strengthening of the old male bastion where violence is unacknowledged. Let us be very careful how we do these things; and be very clear that we are not trying to recreate a past that never existed.

In P.E.I. some years ago, some form of a Charter of Rights for Children was under consideration by the government. It was lobbied against by those who thought the family would be destroyed. The same mentality is lobbying against giving children and young people the information they need to protect themselves. The abusers and the willfully blind work together well.

And so I think, well, more money might go to programs in the schools to teach children to say "no!" and to "tell someone". And this is good. But saying "no" will not protect a child, and while knowing they have a right to say "no" and to tell someone is empowering, what do we have in place for them for their protection and their healing?

And then I think that more programs will be funded to work with abusers and batterers. Because, of course, if they are stopped, abuse will stop. But so far such programs have been basically unsuccessful, and only the convicted for the most part - and so few abusers are convicted - get to them at all. And where will the money come from? From already underfunded services for survivors? Already the backlash is saying again that women and children are lying, and the courts keep the hefty sentences for the abusers of boys.

If we plan prevention, we need to get at the adolescents and pre-adolescents or even littler kids - we need to get at our entertainment, our institutions, oh yes - our patriarchy - you all here know what needs to be done - a change of vision - a world where respect is a given!

Of course, we must strive for and work towards the prevention of abuse.

The financial cost is not the problem. We are already paying that for our psychiatric institutions and for our jails. Can we afford these abusers any longer? Can we post their names in each community wherever they live and have the community really take the responsibility - not their wives - the whole community - to see that they are no longer allowed to be alone with children? The batterer, named and known! The rapist a figure of public contempt! Could we try this? Really disapprove of the abusers' behaviour?

In the meantime the healers, the truth tellers, those who empower (among these many are the Rape Crisis workers) are the hard-pressed workers for the prevention of sexual abuse.

R[illegible] RAPE & SEXUAL
[illegible] CENTRE

Women get blame in incest cases

BY PAULA J. CAPLAN [illegible] 1/15/[illegible]
and MARY FASSEL

Ms Caplan is a psychologist and author of The Myth of Women's Masochism. Ms Fassel practices family law in Toronto.

BEFORE REACHING 18 years of age, 16 per cent of North American women experience incestuous sexual abuse, mostly by fathers or step-fathers. Mental-health professionals call this profoundly damaging, but some family lawyers in child-custody disputes have attacked the truthfulness of women's disclosures of ex-husbands' sexual assaults on their children, calling these allegations vicious, false and vindictive.

The truth is that sexual abuse of children is under-reported and it is rarely raised in custody disputes, even when the abuse was a major reason for the marriage breakdown. Peter Jaffe, clinic director of the London Family Court, says that of more than 500 cases involving custody and access disputes he has seen in the past six years, only two involved false allegations. And in both those cases, the mothers genuinely believed abuse had occurred. "Most cases," says child psychologist Jaffe, "are not being thoroughly dealt with by either the social service or the criminal justice system."

What is striking is the intensity with which many people have leaped onto the woman-blaming bandwagon.

At a recent meeting of a group describing itself as a "high-powered" collection of Toronto lawyers who do most of the city's family law Supreme Court work, the discussion topic was billed in advance as the shoddy treatment that mothers and other women receive in the courts. But the actual focus of enthusiastic discussion was what was called the "manipulative, hysterical, and sneaky" nature of women, especially ex-wives. The men guilty of sexual abuse were not even discussed by this group, nor was concern expressed about the physical and emotional damage done to children.

Considering the pervasiveness of child sexual abuse and its traumatic, often lifelong effects, it is worrying that people concern themselves with blaming women when the crimes are committed almost exclusively by men.

The problem's magnitude has been conclusively documented by extensive research. Most current victims of incest were abused more than a decade ago, when the fashion was to accuse child victims of lying when they mentioned incest. Most of these now-adult women have suffered serious emotional problems as a result, believing themselves to be rarities, guilty of horrible sins. Major depression, phobias, physical illnesses and severe anxiety attacks have been common consequences of the abuse and of the secrecy and disbelief surrounding it.

When these women began to speak out about their experiences, the dangers of telling the truth diminished somewhat, and professionals learned that children rarely lie about sexual abuse. Indeed, most children who have been abused don't understand for years how wrong it was.

But even when victims' reports were accepted, the stark truth remained — that with few exceptions, nothing comes of these reports. When anything is done, it is likely to be a lengthy process involving months of interviews by professionals who attempt to determine whether sexual abuse occurred and what needs to be done. Much of the work is done by mental-health professionals, among whom woman-blaming is common.

Lawyers and others who refuse to acknowledge the problem are reweaving the old shroud of secrecy. Victims' mothers will revert to silence, living with the pain of bringing up an abused child and fearing that to report incest would mean she and her child would be branded as crazy and vindictive. In the United States, judges have taken custody away from mothers who have made such allegations. Their reporting of an ex-husband's abuse has been regarded as proving they are vicious women.

In Canada, the federal Divorce Act of 1986 — Section 16 (10) — requires judges determining custody to consider each spouse's willingness to facilitate the child's contact with the other spouse. This makes a mother who wishes to limit her child's access to a father who has fondled or raped his daughter vulnerable to loss of custody.

Mothers might not immediately reveal information about abuse upon separation from their spouses, but that is no reason to suspect their motives when they do reveal it. Most women do not expect their husbands to contest custody and therefore may see no reason to raise the issue at the start. But when the husband claims custody of a child he has abused, the woman has no choice but to come forward with this information.

"For years, people blamed mothers for the abuse committed by the fathers," says Michelle Dore, who counsels incest victims in Toronto. "They accused mothers of not protecting their children and even of collaborating with their husbands. Now they are attacking mothers for protecting their children. There continually appears to be a greater willingness to blame mothers than to blame the fathers, who are really at fault."

For these reasons, lawyers are increasingly reluctant to include allegations of sexual abuse in custody affidavits. Such allegations might damage their clients' credibility before a skeptical court. Similarly, as in the United States, police may refuse to investigate and lay charges in sexual-abuse cases where there has been a divorce. Mental-health professionals minimize the fact that sexual abuse has occurred — and it is particularly damaging to tell a child that what was done to her never happened.

In abuse cases, scrupulous care must be taken in gathering evidence, recording reports and following proper court procedures. For as family law expert Jeffery Wilson says: "Sexual abuse is going on. It's disgusting. Generally speaking, the courts have been skeptical about believing the mother and the child.

"If we need to scrutinize the existing abuse-investigation system, so be it. But in so doing, it is important to be clear about our motives and goals so that in the end we can ensure that the full force of the law is brought to bear on eradicating this devastating betrayal of our children."

PRESENTATION TO THE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Presented by J. Anne Nicholson,
President, P.E.I. Rape and Sexual Assault Crisis Centre

Since 1983 the primary objective of the P.E.I. Rape and Sexual Assault Crisis Centre has been the prevention of violence against women and children.

A Social Services audit conducted in October 1989 found "The Centre has made considerable constructive, positive impact upon the community's awareness, attitudes, structures and programs towards sexual assault and sexual abuse as well as other women's issues." Further, the review found that "The Centre provides services which are not available elsewhere to the extent needed by the clients."

In the past two years, little has happened to improve services. Instead a number of studies have been initiated which are having the effect of raising hopes in the hearts of many victims of abuse. People are coming to the Rape Crisis Centre in unprecedented numbers looking for help, and there is very little to offer them.

Our concern at the Centre is that in the name of prevention the needs of survivors are going to be put on the back burner. What is perhaps being overlooked is that survivors who find the support and help they need are in fact our best agents in preventing the cycle of violence from continuing. Services are prevention.

When a woman picks up the phone to call for help she is taking the first step in stopping the violence in her life and the lives of her children. If she fails to get consistent and appropriate help, that first step could be in vain.

The Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention is being very effective in bringing important issues to the public. We feel it must be recognized that the main benefit of this process is public education. Hopefully, important policy decisions won't be made based on a summary of public opinion. We have some concern that the format of the workshop seemed to inhibit the sharing of information by experienced participants as they are involved in facilitating the participation of others. Many people felt silenced by being required to answer the three questions without a full understanding of the issues.

When we at the Rape Crisis Centre are asked "What are you doing about prevention?", it brings to mind a comment made several years ago by a government administrator who asked, "What does incest have to do with sexual assault?" Incest is one of the most abhorrent forms of sexual assault and cannot be separated from the large issue of violence. Working with survivors of sexual assault and violence is, in fact, the most important aspect of prevention.

At a time when awareness of the issues surrounding violence is steadily increasing, violence is becoming a problem with younger and younger children. Yet teachers and clergy are untrained and unprepared to deal with it. Schools are extremely careful now not to use physical punishment in dealing with violent behaviour in students.

Abusive behaviour and attitudes can be identified and addressed early. Outside the home, the school is the best vehicle for getting to the heart of the problem. Even in large classes, teachers can often identify students with problems but are unprepared to investigate or deal with them. Guidance counsellors are now equipped with excellent tools for working on behavioural problems but they are not given the time or mandate to do the work. There is usually one guidance counsellor working with several hundred students, often in several different schools. No doubt, teachers are careful about demanding too much help for fear it will be seen as failure to handle their work.

The issues of violence in families are very sensitive and teachers and guidance counsellors need a lot of support and protection if they are going to be able to make a difference. As it stands now, it is very difficult to discuss any sensitive issues in the schools. If we are going to make inroads in changing the violent nature of our society some unpopular choices are going to have to be made.

Although studies are important in order to facilitate informed discussions, We feel that there is more than enough data available now to start implementing recommendations for funding violence prevention.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Increase funding for the P.E.I. Rape and Sexual Assault Crisis Centre, Anderson House, and similar service oriented organizations.

2. Provide specific training for Social Services workers on counselling survivors of sexual assault.

3. Introduce programs in school to identify and deal with violence in families. It is not enough to just uncover the problems. Counselling has to be available when it is required.

4. Provide training for teachers and support for them when they need it.

5. Get more guidance counsellors into the schools and give them the resources to follow through with long term assistance to children and families.

6. Changes to the Justice System are required to address the unique nature of sex offenses so that convictions can be made.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION
SUMMARY OF INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS

INTEREST GROUP

Services for Adult Survivors (S.A.S.)
Marie Burge
81 Prince Street, Charlottetown, 368-7337

CONSULTATION

May 25, 1991 and July 17, 1991
Beach Grove Home
On one occasion representatives from S.A.S. attended a special meeting with representatives from CCCFVP. On the second occasion members of S.A.S. attended a regular CCCFVP meeting.

BACKGROUND

S.A.S. is a volunteer organization focusing on the needs of survivors of sexual abuse and sexual assault. They currently have proposals before the Provincial and Federal governments for a residential healing centre.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Need for residential healing centre.

Treatment is prevention.

Professional training is needed.

System response is not adequate to the problem.

S.A.S. is currently preparing a video which will be available for viewing.

See attached written presentation.

...2

ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM S.A.S.

May 23, 1991

This first meeting focused on the efforts of S.A.S. and clarification between the CCCFVP and the IMCFV.

A subgroup of the organization is trying to establish a residential healing centre for female survivors and their children. They are currently developing a proposal and are negotiating with Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and Health and Welfare Canada. They have previously approached the provincial government for funding and feel that they have been caught in the cross fire. The program planned is brand new - there is no precedent. A controversial aspect may be the role of children in healing.

Treatment is prevention. If we do not deal with current survivors, we will end up having to deal with the next generation.

Victims and survivors are talking about the systems response and how inadequate it is. Issue of Unit 9 of QEH brought up. How is sexual abuse dealt with? Concern about drug therapy and electric shock therapy. Seems to be a policy shift not to deal with sexual abuse issues. Is this an attempt to put the lid back on? See it as connected to the closure of beds. Those in deepest crisis not getting service they need.

There is a need for training and resources within the system and for various professionals.

Need to reframe our attitude to mental health.

Survivors need a 24 hour facility - short term crisis intervention will not work. Existence of a physical building also sends message to the community. - Community can then acknowledge what is happening. (Anderson House good example)

See a potential for large numbers of survivors coming forth and need eventually for services across the Island.

Peer models have role in healing.

Have to address underlying causes - change structures that allow violence against women and children.

Stigma should be on offender not on victim. Need to name who the offenders are. Putting the blame on men is taboo - naming the violence is difficult.

Need more in the school to make it an okay topic to discuss. Need to ask the right questions if we want to prevent. (See needs assessment done by Terry Mitchell)

...3

Media have a role to play - should be consultation with them and they must participate as citizens.

Links of child sexual abuse to large % of battered women.

Whole society teaches us to be victims.

JULY 17, 1991

Services are part of prevention. Part of that comes from naming the problem. There is lots of documentation on the generational cycle of violence. Having a building shows that problem exists and that people are putting effort into dealing with it.

Their proposals include services such as individual therapy, group therapy, support groups, programs for kids - support and therapy. Programs will be open to residents and non residents. Have not competed policy on male children. Residence would be intensive for 6 - 12 months. Would have own apartment and pay rent to maintain as ordinary a life style as possible.

Current helping system is not effective. There is a need for S.A.S. and for training for service providers. Women need to be involved in design of their own programs. System does not allow women to judge what is best for herself. "Work with" women, not "do for". Community based approach (not institutional) is needed. Incorporate survivors onto staff.

Most, if not all, women seeking services have already gone through existing systems. S.A.S. already has a waiting list for their services.

Medical model will not work. Drugs not appropriate as they stop flashbacks which need to go through. Specialized care is needed.

Healing is a long term process, can't look for short term answers. Psych Unit at hospital will not ask questions because they do not have time to help. Professionals admit need training in this area.

System needs to be more sensitive to manifestations of abuse. Accessibility needs to be increased.

There is a taboo in the community about talking about sexual abuse.

Children need easy access to information about sexual abuse (e.g. Kids Help Line).

Mutual support systems are needed. Another survivor is the best guide through the healing process. This is also cost effective.

TO THE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

FROM SAS - SERVICES FOR ADULT SURVIVORS

Services for Adult Survivors of Sexual Abuse/Assault (SAS) is a community-based women's group committed to developing appropriate and accessible services for women healing from the pain of childhood sexual abuse. We know that these women and their children do not have adequate services at present. For three years, SAS has been working towards the goal of building and managing a healing centre. We will offer a therapeutic program that will help fill this gap in service to these women.

SAS strongly believes it is desirable that iniatives emerging from the community be incorporated into the health-care system. We are very enheartened by the concept of partnership between private non-profit groups and government. We feel the unmet needs of adult Survivors must finally be on the political agenda. Childhood sexual abuse is only part of a larger framework in which many women and children are regularly victimized. Many families will benefit from an acknowledgement of the prevalence of sexual abuse, past and present, and of the depth of the damage done.

We accept the invitation of the Prince Edward Island Government to become involved in the process of reducing the presence of violence in Island families and communities. We implore the Community Consultation Committee to really hear our arguments about the urgent need for these services for adult women survivors. That, to really break the silence and the cycle of victimization that causes such huge losses, human, economic and social.

In a profound and far-reaching way, our work is about prevention of child sexual abuse. Just as the very existence of a transition house helps prevent spousal abuse and as addiction programs have preventative dimensions, a SAS House in the community is the first step to long-term elimination of the sexual abuse of children in their own homes. The fact that this abuse is likely to recur in the next generation is now documented. Helping adult Survivors is helping families and prevents the inter-generational abuse from continuing.

As well as providing a healing place for Survivors, SAS is committed to an ongoing community education program to make all Islanders conscious of the problem of sexual abuse/assault, of the root causes of the problem and of the need for societal changes required to eliminate ~~this~~ it.

We are prepared to justify the costs and confident that our program is extremely cost-effective. Our goal is to help approximately 100 Island families a year, residents and non-residents combined. Our annual budget of $350,000. represents about $3500. per family, a modest sum compared to the amounts that we know are being currently spent on unsuccessful treatments and the many other indirect ways that these same families are supported by social services.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION
SUMMARY OF INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS

INTEREST GROUP

P.E.I. GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING ASSOCIATION
Sister Donna Egan
c/o Stonepark Junior High School
50 Pope Ave
Sherwood P.E.I. C1A 7P5   892-5435

CONSULTATION

The Association forwarded to CCCFVP their written response to our call for consultation.

BACKGROUND

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Written submission only .See attached brief.

- copy [illegible].
- copy to Lill for CCCFVP mtg.

RECEIVED
JUN 06 1991

- return to me
Thanks
S.

June 4, 1991

Ms. Sandy Bentley
Co-Chairperson
Community Consultation Committee
on Family Violence
P. O. Box 2000
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
C1A 7N8

Dear Ms. Bentley

In response to your request for our reaction to the Discussion paper, "The Prevention of Family Violence: A Community Response", the Prince Edward Island Guidance Counsellor Association submits the following report:

The Prince Edward Island Guidance Counsellor Association fully supports the endorsement of the document "The Prevention of Family Violence: A Community Response". As well we commend the Interministerial Committee on Family Violence for the process used for the development of the paper. Engaging the community in identifying areas for focus and for exploring ways to prevent family violence is an excellent means for communities to become more aware of the problem and have input into helping resolve this serious social problem.

Although in agreement with all of the paper, we would like to highlight particular areas. We highly endorse guiding principle #7 - "Everyone is entitled to accessible quality and consistent services" and #6 - "Everyone is entitled to live in a safe environment". As counsellors working in every geographical area of this province, we believe services for the victims of violence need to be more decentralized. There definitely needs to be more availability of services such as safe homes, programs for offenders, family counselling and support services for victims in the rural areas and smaller communities. In our work, we meet families living in violent situations who feel helpless to change their situation because it means moving out of their communities and into one that is unfamiliar. We particularly would like to emphasize the need for decentralized family counselling services.

In most areas of Prince Edward Island this service is non-existent. This important preventative tool for family violence is missing in many of our communities.

Within our schools we would like to see curricula which teaches that violence in any form is unacceptable. As well, children need consistent resources and materials across the grades one to twelve that focus on conflict resolution, self esteem and personal safety. Teachers have much more awareness of the problem and consequences of family violence than they had in past years. However, there still needs to be considerable work in raising further awareness for all teachers at all levels. Teachers need to know how to listen when children attempt to disclose their situations, particularly in the area of sexual abuse. There is also a need to be more aware of the consequences for children living in homes where there is violence against their mothers, but the children, themselves, are not recipients of physical abuse. There seems to be higher tolerance for spousal abuse, in the communities, than for child abuse. Communities need to believe that violence in any form is not acceptable.

Home and School Associations could be tapped into for support and to assist in awareness raising. These associations are affiliated with schools all across the province and extend well into small rural communities. They would be a vehicle for getting information to parents and families.

Our government stated that it is "committed to the philosophy of social fairness to the strengthening of Island families" and that it "must be prepared in these instances, to extend a helping hand on behalf of the larger Island family to offer protection and security where there is none". There needs to be more than a philosophical commitment, there must be a financial commitment. Many of the preventive and support services require dollars. The provincial governments recent decisions in cutting funding to Time-Out (a program for youth from troubled homes), as well as, discontinuing the Department of Education's Family Life Consultant position, is inconsistent with its philosophical statement. In order for services to be at least adequate government dollars are required.

As counsellors we regularly witness the effects of violence on our students. We can play a crucial role in helping to implement the strategies that will develop out of the Interministerial Committee on Family Violence. We extend our full support to your Committee as it endeavors to help the families characterized by violence.

Submitted by

The P.E.I. Guidance Counsellors Association

Section 6

Press Clippings

Meetings seek answers to stop family violence

ELMSDALE — The first in a series of meeting across the province on family violence was held at Westisle to develop a plan to suggest ways the violence can be stopped.

Jill Lightwood, coordinator of the Community Consulation Committee on Family Violence, said the committee will be holding a series of eight such meetings across the province to get this imput from the community so it can make recommendations to government on what can be done to help solve the problem.

Steve McQuaid, from Policy Board, said a strategy to help solve the problem should be coming from the community. The purpose of the series of meeting is to consult with the public, raise awareness of the situation and make suggestions on what can be done to prevent it, or intervene early when such situations arise.

SEEKING STRATEGY

The strategy is to be ready to present to government by next August. Valerie Strang outlined the services she is now offering as family violence coordinator in West Prince.

John Buchanan, from Social Services, said the community should be looking at preventing such things happening through problem solving and identifing resources. He said people in West Prince must identify these in this unique rural setting.

Mr. Buchanan said the area has many things going for it with its cooperative way of doing things by area residents working together to solve their problems. He said the needs of victims must be researched and services coordinated. Education and public forums are ways to bringing the message more before the public.

LEARNED RESPONSE

Sandy Ben[illegible], director of Home Care and Support Services, said they were looking at a long-term program as it is a learned response and often repeated from one generation to the next. She pointed out that anyone can be an offender or a victim.

Eileen Conway Martin, coordinator of the Lennox Island Family Violence Project, set the stage for the small group sessions to follow. She said they should be working towards violence-free communities and it is necessary for those who have suffered from it to open up so they can have a life again.

Family violence is a part of life for one million Canadians each year. It was pointed out that these people are not different than the rest of Canadians.

Those attending the meeting were then divided into small groups to discuss several questions. Some ground rules were laid down for the group discussions to respect confidential personal experiences being repeated.

Facilitators and recorders were pre-appointed for each of the six groups. The questions discussed included, "What is the first thing that you think of when you hear the works family violence?"

The small groups were then asked what can be done to prevent family violence as individuals, as families and as a community.

EDITORIAL

Facing family violence

"When our families are healthy and secure, so then is our province..."

That's an excerpt from the 1989 Speech from the Throne in which the Ghiz government pledged to tackle the issue of family violence. It's a darker side of life on Prince Edward Island that often doesn't get the attention it deserves, yet there are few issues so fundamentally important to the future of the province.

Every day, under the broad heading of family violence, individual Islanders are robbed of their peace and security—by way of spousal assault, or abuses involving children, the mentally and physically frail, or the elderly. It's a problem that has to be addressed.

The province has taken the lead by establishing an interministerial committee on family violence in 1989. The committee has prepared a position paper on family violence, and another committee is now travelling across the province, creating awareness of the problem and getting input from Islanders on how to prevent family violence. Earlier this week, the committee came to Summerside and while the turnout was less than desired (possibly because of an impending storm) there were some interesting points raised.

One man spoke of a community in Ontario that has declared itself violence-free. If it could happen there, why not on P.E.I.? Perhaps, with an effective education program to teach young people there are alternatives to violence, and support services for victims and those with violent tendencies, it may be possible. In the meantime, a shelter for battered women and their families in Prince County should be a priority for government. It has been well documented that many women opt to stay in a violent relationship rather than disrupting their family by travelling to Anderson House in Charlottetown.

Educating the next generation may be the best hope for reducing, and eventually eliminating, family violence. In the home, television is a powerful medium that must constantly be monitored by parents or guardians of impressionable young minds. One prime time program, The Fifth Estate, aired a feature last week that would have been rated Restricted if it had been shown in the theatre. Complete with a blow-by-blow commentary, a man in South Africa was approached by a gang of youths belonging to the African National Congress, kicked to the ground, gouged, beaten and stabbed. He was suspected of being anti-AFC. The gang left, and the victim—who miraculously survived the initial attack—struggled to an upright position. Minutes later, however, the gang returned, doused him with gasoline and lit him afire. There, with the cameras rolling, the man stood and ran a few steps before falling to the ground and burning to death. What impression would this violent murder leave on young people who might have been watching?

Children do imitate what they see and hear, and if they are constantly bombarded with violence, they will grow up to believe that is an acceptable behavior. The message they are all too often getting is that the use of violence is an acceptable means of resolving conflict.

If there is violence in today's society, it's not enough to point an accusing finger at the offender who is being tried in court. Islanders must look at themselves as individuals, their families and the community in which they are raising their family. By cleaning up our own back yards, we can do our part to create a safer environment in our homes and communities.

The provincial government will get a final report from the Community Consultation Committee in August. Hopefully their report, compiled with input from people across this province, won't be allowed to gather dust. Government must ensure the immediate and long-term physical safety, information and support to all victims and survivors of family violence. It must develop prevention strategies that will help us understand and identify the causes of family violence, and target them to affect change in attitudes and behavior.

For tackling the problem, government is to be commended. It is to be hoped that its final response won't be based solely on dollars and cents but rather, on the good of the Island society as a whole.

dy/mc

Reducing Family Violence Involves All Islanders

Jan. 31/91 Journal

By Wayne Young
(J-P Staff Writer)

If you saw an act of violence being committed by a husband against his wife, or a parent against his or her child, how would you handle it?

The concensus of a small group that gathered in Summerside last night to discuss family violence and its prevention was that most would rather "wash their hands" of the matter than get involved.

"(To interfere) goes against everything we have been taught," one member of the group offered. "It's not fear...we have been taught that it's none of our business."

The group discussion was part of the second in an Island-wide series of meetings called by the Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence. It was attended by about 60 people.

Formed to guide a community-based strategy on the prevention of family violence, the committee is seeking input for an interim report it will be making to the provincial Policy Board in March, and for its final report which will be submitted to Cabinet in August of this year.

TRAGIC REALITY

"Reduction of family violence is a long-term goal which we strongly believe must involve everyone in the community," said Sandra Bentley, co-chairman of the committee. "The tragic reality is that everyone of us can be a victim or an offender."

If Islanders are to lead a more peaceful co-existence with each other, Bentley said the root causes of family violence must be addressed.

And that's what happened when the meeting split into six small discussion groups.

"I think we all deserve some training on how to be parents," a group member offered. Stress, brought on by any number of factors, can make parenting an extra challenge, and how to deal with that stress without taking it out on the children is something that is not taught, she said.

SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY

Another group member said more emphasis has to be put on marriage preparation, and on the reality that caring for children is a responsibility that cannot be taken lightly.

One woman said we can often detect in others when the stress level is building to a point where violence is a possibility, and that offering to look after the children and allowing the parent to get out of the house for a while might be helpful.

"We've got to eliminate the guilt which prevents people from getting help," another group member offered. "Parents can admit they made a mistake, and do something about it."

As individuals, Islanders can also help by donating money to fund a transition house in East Prince. Because the only shelter now available in P.E.I. is in Charlottetown, battered women are often discouraged from leaving their abusive partner, and the pattern of abuse continues, another said.

VIOLENCE-FREE COMMUNITY

It's a lofty goal, but one member of the panel suggested P.E.I. might consider a project successfully undertaken in an Ontario town. There, he said a housing co-operative has declared itself Violence-Free.

While a few people who felt they could not conform to the title have left the co-operative, he said the remainder strive to eliminate violence in their tiny community, supporting each other in achieving and maintaining this goal.

"They have developed the resources to make this happen," he added.

In the same way that impaired driving has been condemned in Canada over the past few years, family violence must also be shown to be socially unacceptable, a group member said.

VICTIM SPEAKS OUT

Prior to the group discussions, one participant who wanted to put "a face to the statistics" told of the physical and emotional abuse she endured for the 17 years she lived at home.

"Discussing family violence arouses some painful memories for me," she said. "My parents were very committed to us (children), but Dad had a problem dealing with stress, and he'd handle it by physically and emotionally abusing those who closest to him."

She said an offender like her father must be held accountable for his actions, but treatment, and not just punishment, must also be available to end the pattern of violence.

After going through such an experience, the woman said she developed a strong principle that violence is never acceptable, and that everyone is entitled to live in a safe environment.

"During those years, I always kept a vision of a safe, warm family, and with the help of others, I find myself in the end living just what I always felt could be possible," she said. "Working together, we can see violence-free community realized in our lifetimes."

[illegible]

Journal
31/1/91

Taking verbal aim at violence

Family violence committee hopes talking can ease issue

By Sandra Lambe
Summerside Bureau

SUMMERSIDE — If in fact talking is the first step to eliminating family violence, a group in Summerside moved one step closer to that goal during a recent meeting here.

The Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence held the second of a number of public discussion meetings on family violence prevention at Three Oaks high school.

Sandy Bentley, committee co-chairperson, said their goals are to get people talking about prevention, to establish an open climate of discussion, to invite input from a wide range of interests in the community, and to raise awareness about family violence.

PART OF EVERYONE

Prevention isn't going to happen overnight, Ms. Bentley said. One of the first things to realize is that the factors contributing to family violence are part of everyone, she added.

"The tragic reality is that any one of us can be a victim or an offender."

People have to address the root causes of violence in their own lives and in the world, the co-chairperson said.

The discussion Wednesday evening was opened up by one woman in the group who shared her experience growing up in a home where violence was a reality. People are often given statistics about violence, she told the group. For example, almost one million women in Canada are abused by their partners in a year.

STOP AND THINK

"Tonight, I want you to stop and I want you to think about these people — the men, and the women, and the children, and the elders, that are the faces on these statistics."

Families that experience violence are no different than other families, she stressed.

In her own experience, her parents were committed to the children, but her father had a problem dealing with stress and took his frustrations out on the people he loved most.

"Families that experience this problem are just that, families that have a problem," the woman added.

Small discussion groups were the focal point of the recent meeting here. While what was said was said in confidentiality, there were some general points that were raised.

FAMILY VIOLENCE

For one group, the term "family violence" was associated with husbands abusing their wives, parents abusing their children, and in some cases children abusing their parents.

In terms of prevention, one of the things the group felt should be available is support systems for people who are becoming parents for the first time so they know what a big effect that will have on all aspects of their lives. One suggestion was that parenting courses are made an educational requirement.

As individuals trying to prevent family violence, some members of the group said one thing they can do is offer to watch a friend's children if he/she needs to "get away" for an hour.

And, within families it was suggested that parents should admit to their children if they made a mistake and yelled at them when they had no reason, and take the time to explain what happened and why.

IGNORE SIGNS

Another observation in the group was that people are taught from childhood not to interfere in other people's business so they tend ignore signs of family violence, or situations where a parent is being excessively rough with a child in a public place.

There's been a cultural change in terms of impaired driving in the last few years such that it's no longer acceptable behavior, one person remarked. And, it is that same kind of change that has to happen in relation to family violence, the group agreed.

One suggestion coming out of the discussion that was specific to the East Prince area was that the public has to be educated of the need for a shelter for battered women in this area.

DIFFICULT DECISION

If a person has not experienced family violence, he/she often does not understand how difficult it is to leave in that situation, one person pointed out. Then, if the woman has to take her children out of their school and move away from her community for shelter, it becomes that much more difficult, the group said.

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PUTTING FACE ON ABUSE

Family violence touches everyone

By Stephen Sharratt
Montague Bureau

MONTAGUE — As a policeman, he was a respected member of the community. As a father, he was trapped in a violent web.

The love letters he wrote to his wife acknowledged his commitment and devotion, the frustrations he vented on his family sent mixed messages to his children.

"The violence in our home was very real. My father had learned a pattern of abuse through his life and he lived with the guilt, remorse and regret . . . the apologies came after."

FRANK PRESENTATION

In a frank presentation to a public forum on family violence here recently, Eileen Conway-Martin revealed some painful insights into her childhood. However, she stressed to more than 50 people attending the conference that she is not unique and hope is always available to any family member caught in a violent situation.

"I'm not special because of this experience," she explained later in an interview. "I've learned most people live with a certain degree of this every day. As a child, my family had our happy times and our silly times, but we also had our violent times."

Ms. Conway-Martin, co-ordinator of the Lennox Island family violence prevention program, was guest speaker for the Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence conference held at Montague High school.

Organizers were impressed with the turnout of people who attended the function and participated in confidential small group discussions about violence in the home.

MAJORITY TOUCHED

"Virtually everyone in this province has been touched by family violence and in all truth, many are victims or offenders," said Sandra Bentley, co-chair of the committee mandated to gather public input on the problem and make recommendations to government later this year.

"What we have to do is put a face on family violence so we can recognize it."

Ms. Conway-Martin said she felt the frustation and tension, but didn't really recognize family violence until she compared her family with others.

"When I would go to a friend's house and discover that spilling a glass of milk wasn't a big deal or that there was such a thing as verbal abuse as opposed to physical abuse. . . I began to see the difference."

A resident of O'Leary, Ms. Conway-Martin said she feels privleged today to have a loving husband and family and told the crowd she didn't realize her father had learned 'the family violence pattern' until she sought help for herself.

LOVED FAMILY. . . BUT

"My father loved his family, but as a policeman in the community and a person people respect and look up to, it was difficult for someone of that status to admit they had a problem and seek help."

She encouraged participants to create violent free communities and maintained such an ideal was a possible, and not impossible, dream. But the greatest fear for the victim of family violence, the conference identified, was exposure. By seeking help, the issue surfaces, and the family member is frightened to hurt the family.

Some participants maintained schools should allow family violence discussion groups to be held (without parental consent), that the crisis is over before help can be sought, that service providers need to be more approachable, and that rural people try and "keep out of other people's lives when it comes to violence.' They encouraged the need for a safe house, a central help line, and a resource center to obtain information.

NEED DISCUSSION

And while television and its effects didn't escape careful scrutiny, most participants agreed that parents have to decide and discuss which programs and videos they allow their children to view, even if it means turning off the Ninja Turtles.

"Family violence results in the removal of a person's integrity and confidence. We have the challenge of curbing violence in families, and that will only be realized when we get involved with the institutions around us such as the church, schools, and agencies and create violence free communities. The objective is to be life giving, rather than life taking."

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(Co-sponsored by The Southern Kings & Queens
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ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

EASTERN GRAPHIC, APRIL 17, 1991

Discuss family violence at Montague seminar

BY DENNIS KING

People interested in family violence protection are invited to attend "Let's talk and learn about the prevention of family violence" to be held at the Montague High School cafeteria on April 23.

The event is co-sponsored by the Southern Kings and Queens Advisory Board, the Local Planning Committee and the Community Consultation Committee on Family Violence Prevention and will discuss the important topic of family violence.

Such things to be discussed include "What is the first thing you think of when you hear the term 'family violence'?" and what can be done to prevent it.

Jill Lightwood who is on the planning committee for the seminar, says people are starting to realize that family violence is a serious matter and they aren't sweeping it under the rug anymore.

"The first step in preventing family violence is learning to talk about it," said Ms Lightwood. "It is a very serious problem."

Ms Lightwood says that people are beginning to realize the seriousness and aren't as reluctant to hide it.

"We are trying to find ways to prevent family violence, that is what the consultation is about," Ms Lightwood said.

Souris Hospital to host family violence meeting

SOURIS — Awareness of the horrors of family violence and a search for solutions are taking their place in community action today thanks to events like one planned for Souris Hospital this month.

A 2½ hour workshop entitled 'Let's talk and learn about the prevention of family violence' on April 25 will involve church, community groups and individuals from all areas of society.

Information and discussion gleaned from the gathering will be used to educate the public and help the Community Consultation Committee co-chaired by the P.E.I. Department of Health and Social Services and Policy Board.

Coordinator Jill Lightwood said its goals are to seek dialogue and action on specific prevention strategies and raise awareness about family violence. It also hopes to create a broad spectrum of interest in communities and establish a constructive climate in which to address prevention. This committee includes representatives from community agencies involved in the issue, and a staff person shared between Justice and Health and Social Services who acts as coordinator. It is to act as a steering committee for the consultation process.

Following a number of these public dialogue sessions across the Island reports will be presented to cabinet and the next stage of action determined. The Souris sessions takes place Thursday, April 25, from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the classroom on the lower level. For more information call Pauline Peters at 687-3370 or Jill Lightwood at 368-4583.

Journal

Dealing With Problem Of Family Violence

By Doug Beazley
(J-P Staff Writer)

CHARLOTTETOWN - Sandra Bentley started out the meeting with a story.

"There's an old Asian proverb about a man who noticed that a lot of people were drowning in a river," she said. "He wanted to put people on the riverbank to watch for drowning victims and save them. But a wise man told him, 'Perhaps first we should go upstream and find out why so many people are falling into the river in the first place.'"

The director of Home Care and Support Services in Charlottetown was trying to make a point about family violence: all the laws and all the social agencies in the world won't stop it until people learn why and how it happens.

And getting at the causes of family violence was the reason 100 city residents gathered in the gymnasium at Holland College Tuesday night for the last in a series of public discussions sponsored by a joint government-private committee.

The Community Consultation Committee was set up by the province in August 1990 to gather public input for a long-term government plan to combat violence in the home. The committee, run by representatives of several provincial ministries and private social action groups, has held a total of six public meetings across the Island in the past year, including a gathering in Summerside in January.

After the opening speeches the attendance at last night's meetings broke up into small discussion groups of five to ten people, and talked about what family violence means to them.

Kids learn the attitudes they'll take into their adult lives at a very early age, and this teacher said he first decided to get into education out of a desire to teach children about coping with and controlling violence.

"A lot of children of alcholics end up in social service jobs where they are caregivers - it's a fact," he said. "A teacher is often the first to see who has the problem with violence. It's boys especially, and they can be spotted as the ones who are the bullies in the playground pushing around kids who are smaller and defenceless. They have to be taught conflict resolution skills - making decisions and solving problems without violence."

He can't say why men batter more than women, but the teacher guesses it has a lot to do with the society boys grow up in.

"We have grown up in a patriarchal society where man is the boss," he said. "Men have always been stronger, and they've used that strength to make the rules. Wars are fought and won because one country is stronger than another. So I see that reflected in the kids in my class - some boys think because they have the strength they should be able to use it."

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

Children are not only the ones who take up the violent attitudes of their parents - they're also often the first victims of family violence. Sunny, an 11-year-old city girl who listened to and took part in last night's talks, said children who don't come from violent families have to learn that violence is a fact of life in some households - and they can help.

"I'm learning it's everybody's problem," she said. "Kids think if it happens to you you're different, you're like some kind of alien. But it happens to a lot of people and they don't tell. I don't think kids knew that they could get involved and tell people if they think someone's being hurt. I didn't know I could help until now."

MATTER OF CONTROL

"It's mostly men that batter, and men beat women and children because it works," said Colin Campbell, director of the Turning Point treatment program for male batterers. "The problem isn't so much anger as it is control. Some men believe that violence is an acceptable way to deal with a problem, and the majority of abusers were victims themselves at some point. In cases of wife assault, there's this idea that, 'This is my wife, and I have the right to force her to do as I say.' That's the attitude we have to fight."

Not every child who is born into a violent home grows up to abuse his or her own children, or to accept violence as a way of life. But the fear of violence never wears off, and former victims can keep that feeling of vulnerability for a lifetime.

"I grew up in a home where my father was an alchoholic, where there was physical violence," said one city area teacher who did not want to be indentified. "I learned to abhore violence, to say that's not the way to solve problems. I was always afraid I would grow up like my father - I didn't take a drink my whole life until I was well into my twenties, because I had such a fear. For others in my family it became a drinking problem."

Journal
26/6/91